

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
3000 Pacific Ave SE, Room 110, Olympia, WA 98501

Members & Alternates Present: Rob Kirkwood, Grace Edwards, Chris Hoffman, Bill Lindstrom, Rebecca Sanchez, David Petrich, John Grenier, Charlie Roe, Ken Balsley

Members & Alternates Absent:

Chairing: Grace Edwards

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development
Jeremy Davis, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by Chair Edwards.

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, all 9 members were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Balsley made a motion to approve the February 8, 2023 agenda.
Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes.
Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

B. Historic Commission Training (Grace Edwards/Jeremy Davis)

Commissioner Lindstrom requested training for new Historic Commissioners to help with the onboarding process at the January meeting. Mr. Davis suggested taking the first 10 minutes of each meeting to hold trainings on focused topics. Also, that staff will provide each member with an informational binder and can schedule trainings with DAHP. Members are encouraged to share knowledge and processes with each other. Commissioner Edwards offered to have one on one discussions with each commissioner to check in and share ideas. She also liked the idea of scheduling 10 minutes at the top of each meeting for trainings based on commissioner requests. Mr. Davis proposed that each training be led by a different commissioner.

Commissioner Balsley offered to take the entire Historic Commission on his history tour of Thurston County. Staff could check out a vehicle for the tour and would have to notify the public of a special meeting. Other topics suggested were trainings on business and transactions-steps for approval and spending and what the commission can approve on their own, and a session showing the separation of the County's duties vs the Historic Commission's to help understand each parties roles and responsibilities.

The Commission nominated Commissioner Lindstrom to give a brief presentation on the history book, "Waters, Woods and Prairies" at the March 8, 2023 meeting.

C. Historic Register Property Recon (John Grenier)

Commissioner Grenier has begun the process of locating and viewing the properties on the Historic Register and has created a Google account for the subcommittee to use to share photos and documents related to the register. He shared that he has had difficulties finding a few of the properties in the Grand Mound area using the addresses with phone GPS so he has started mapping them with Google Earth to find the coordinates. Commissioner Grenier is on the CLG grant application subcommittee and suggested that the Historic Commission members locate and photograph the properties prior to hiring a consultant because a consultant could spend the majority of their time locating the properties. Commissioner Kirkwood agreed that commissioners should begin the project prior to receiving the results of the grant. Updating the historic register is a high priority and large project.

D. CLG Grant Update (Rob Kirkwood)

The CLG grant subcommittee has been working on a draft grant application, the grant is due on April 28th and needs to be to the County Manager for review by March 28th. The subcommittee plans to have the draft ready for staff review in the first week of March. Commissioner Sanchez provided the grant timeline, DAHP will have made their decisions in July with funding starting at the end of September for projects to begin in October.

The subcommittee will be meeting with Shanna Stevenson, a potential consultant for the project and the creator of the Thurston County Historic Register/Inventory, and the CLG Coordinator Michelle Thompson next week to discuss the application. Commissioner Edwards would like to invite Ms. Stevenson to attend the March meeting to share some of her ideas for updating the register.

E. Water, Woods & Prairies Follow Up (Bill Lindstrom)

Commissioner Lindstrom shared that the City of Lacey is potentially interested in distributing another printing of the history book and asked if any steps have been taken towards soliciting for an RFP for a new distributor. Mr. Davis answered that no steps have been taken, to his knowledge there are no funds allocated for another printing of the book. During the January budget discussion, the Commission decided not to fund a printing of the book in 2023 and would like to research the demand for the book to determine the quantity to print. Commissioner Edwards asked whether Ms. Crowell was wanting to make edits to the book prior to another printing, Commissioner Lindstrom stated that he understands it to be a reprint with no edits. Discussions continued.

F. TCHC Re-Boot Subcommittee Report (Chris Hoffman)

The re-boot subcommittee met via Zoom last week to continue reviewing the Thurston County Historic Commission Ordinance. They were not able to review the entire document and will be meeting this Friday via Zoom. Once the subcommittee has completed their review, they plan on scheduling a meeting with the CLG Coordinator to go over the edits and ensure compliance with being a Certified Local Government (CLG). Next the ordinance will be brought to the entire Historic Commission for their review before being presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Edwards plans on meeting with the Commissioners prior to a hearing to inform them of the recommended changes.

G. RAC Interpretive Panels Update (Rob Kirkwood)

The RAC subcommittee will be meeting on Friday with Jennifer Burbidge from the City of Lacey and County staff to discuss the MOU between the County and City. Commissioner Hoffman shared the great news that his friend Bruce Murray, a retired graphic designer, has volunteered to do the layout and printing of the panels! Staff will work with Mr. Murray to provide him with the photos and text. Commissioner Lindstrom was able to show some of the photos for the panels he is working on.

H. TC Advisory Boards and Commissions Handbook

Staff emailed the Historic Commissioners copies of the Thurston County Advisory Boards and Commissions Handbook. Commissioners Hoffman and Edwards recommended having a subcommittee review the handbook and ensure the Commissions bylaws are in compliance.

I. Staff Updates

Mr. Davis updated the Commissioners on the status of the new County website. The website will be going live on February 27th, some of the existing websites may not be immediately available at that time. Staff is busy working on creating the new pages and linking related content.

J. Other Business

- Commissioner Kirkwood shared that he, Chris, and David will be meeting at the Yelm Cemetery with the plaque to plan its installation. Staff is working with legal to create a lottery for future plaques.
- Commissioners Balsley and Sanchez went to the Johnson Store to find historic information on the history of the building. Commissioner Sanchez will also be following up with another lead regarding the history of the store.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff