

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, January 11, 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 Roe made a motion to approve the January 11, 2023 agenda. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the December 14, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Petrich seconded. Motion carried.

B. Budget (Jeremy Davis)

The Historic Commissioners received a copy of the 10-year financial plan for the Historic Preservation account prior to the meeting. Mr. Davis gave a brief review of the budget and pointed out that the RAC project was not listed on the 2023 budget currently, but will be added at the first quarter budget amendments to be rolled over into the 2023 budget the same way Heritage Grants that are not completed in the calendar year do. This leaves approximately \$23,000 for other projects. Mr. Davis also reminded the Commission that they had made a motion to set aside \$500 of the 2023 budget to the Yelm Cemetery plaque unveiling.

C. Work Plan (Grace Edwards)

The Commission created the 2023 budget below.

- County Fair-\$250
- Heritage Day and birthday \$1,000
- History book-TBD
- DAHP training-\$300
- Cultural Resources Review/Historic Register placement- \$1500
- Plaques \$1,500
- CLG Grant- \$5,000
- Historic Journal (funds are already dedicated) \$10,000
- 2024 Heritage Grants-\$40,000

Commissioner Balsley asked how many other groups provide financial support to the Thurston Journal? Staff will follow up with the Olympia Tumwater Foundation.

Commissioner Lindstrom noted that the history book, “Waters, Woods, & Prairies” is not on the budget. Mr. Davis answered that the Historic Commission would need to request that the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) allocate funds for another printing of the book. Also, books would need to be granted to another non-profit organization as the Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum have stated that they would like to terminate their contract once they have distributed their remaining books. Commissioner Lindstrom has been in communication with the City of Lacey, they currently have 31 copies of the book left and expressed an interest in distributing another printing of the book. He requested creating a subcommittee for the book.

Commissioners Balsley and Edwards questioned whether printing another round of books was an urgent need, stating that the book has been very successful and could be reprinted at any time with the same results. Commissioner Edwards added that the Commission could take time to research the market and establish where the book is needed. The Commission agreed to create a book subcommittee, Commissioners Lindstrom, Roe, Petrich, and Hoffman volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Mr. Davis asked the commission members to think about future projects they might want to fund for 2024. These projects can be proposed to the BoCC in May for the 2024 budget.

D. CLG Grant Update (Rob Kirkwood)

Commissioners Kirkwood, Sanchez, and Grenier are on the CLG grant application subcommittee. They reported no new updates other than that they have reviewed the previous application and made slight grammatical changes. Commissioner Kirkwood reminded the Commission that they will be contributing 100 hours to the Historic Register project. Mr. Davis asked whether the previous years figure to hire a consultant was still appropriate? Commissioner Kirkwood stated that the amount being requested was the full amount granted in previous years, once they application is posted they will know how much can be requested.

Staff will contact Shanna Stevenson to inquire if she would be interested in being the consultant if the grant is approved.

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

This agenda item was discussed during the budget discussions. A subcommittee has been formed.

F. TCHC Re-Boot Subcommittee Report (Grace Edwards)

Commissioner Edwards briefed the Commission on the meeting that the subcommittee had with staff on January 6th. The intent of the subcommittee is to update the Historic Commission Ordinance to better reflect the current duties and objectives, establish a line of communication with the BoCC and create clear expectations of the Commissioners and staff. The subcommittee has been reviewing the current ordinance and will continue to meet to discuss proposed changes, especially to the duties and requirements for appointment.

The inventory of Historic Markers was also brought up at the meeting. There are over 100 markers in the County that have not been monitored and the conditions are not known. Mr. Davis suggested proposing to the BoCC that \$5,000 of the 2024 budget be used to hire someone to review the inventory.

Commissioner Edwards will be contacting the BoCC aids to explain the intent of the updates to the Ordinance. Commissioner Kirkwood added that the current ordinance does provide the overall objective of the Historic Commission and its mission, it is lacking the little steps of how to achieve those objectives.

G. RAC Interpretive Panels Update (Rob Kirkwood)

Commissioner Lindstrom has completed a mockup of the Evergreen Ballroom panel for review. He requested having the draft professionally printed to see how it will look on a full-sized panel. Mr. Keough has a draft of the RAC panel write-up that he will route to the subcommittee. Mr. Davis shared that there is no update on the status of the MOU with the City of Lacey. Commissioners Balsley, Edwards and Kirkwood requested a copy of the current MOU draft.

H. Staff Update

Ms. Cady asked if any of the commission members have historic information on the Johnson Store in East Olympia that has applied to be on the Historic Register. Commissioner Balsley will reach out to the Johnsons. Commissioner Sanchez had seen historic information on the store at the train station.

Mr. Davis informed the group that the County's website will be updated including the Historic Commissions webpage.

I. Other Business

- Commissioner Edwards and others are creating an add to be posted on the County's social media pages to recruit commission members.
- Commissioner Balsley's book on the Lacey will be available next month.
- Commissioner Kirkwood is still in communication with the people at the Yelm Cemetery to schedule the installation of the plaque and unveiling.
- Commissioner Lindstrom suggested an orientation for new Commission members to help educate on what the commission does, subcommittees and their projects. Commissioner Edwards added that as chair, she would like to hold one on one meetings with Commission members and staff potentially soon. Commissioner Kirkwood suggested having a 10-15 minute training at each meeting.
- Commissioner Edwards presented Commissioner Kirkwood a certificate thanking him for his time on the Historic Commission and time dedicated as the Chair!

J. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff