

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

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

Members & Alternates Absent:

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Jeremy Davis, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Janice Arnold, Stan Klyne, Donna Weaver, MaryGrace Goddu, Liz Frey, Farrah Zerehi, Susan Ahlschwede

CALL TO ORDER

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

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Attendance

Attendance of the Historic Commission was noted by Staff.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Balsley made a motion to approve the September 14, 2022 agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Lindstrom asked to correct the spelling of Ms. Bullchild's name. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the August 10, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

B. Grand Mound Schoolhouse Application Public Hearing

Commissioner Kirkwood opened the Public Hearing. Staff gave a brief overview of the application and gave their recommendation to place the Grand Mound Schoolhouse to the Historic Register. The Applicants Stan Klyne and Janice Arnold thanked the Historic Commission and staff for their review of the materials and each gave a brief testimony regarding the purchase of the schoolhouse, restorations, and future restorations. They shared their passion and drive to preserve the history of the building and property, and what it means to the community and history of the County. Mr. Klyne noted that the staff report said the chimney had been removed, but that the chimney was still there.

There were 11 members of the public present at the hearing and Donna Weaver, Marygrace Goddu, Liz Frey, Farrah Zerehi and Susan Ahlschwede commented in support of the placement of the schoolhouse to the Historic Register.

The Historic Commissioners discussed the merits of the application. Commissioner Balsley felt that the building's exterior had been changed too drastically to be on the register, but does recognize the historic significance to the community and would like to have the property recognized as historic. Commissioner Kirkwood shared that he believes the windows are an acceptable replacement to the originals and help further preserve the building. He also felt that the colorcrete is now a part of the story and history of the schoolhouse.

Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to place the Grand Mound Schoolhouse on the Thurston County Historic Register. Commissioner Roe seconded. Call to vote, 7 in favor and 1 against. Motion carried.

C. Introduction of New Members

To start the hearing the newly appointment Commissioners Sanchez and Petrich introduced themselves and current members and staff gave brief introductions.

D. Heritage Day Planning

Commissioner Kirkwood briefed the new Commissioners on what the Heritage Day event is and how it has worked in the past. The event will be October 8th at Heritage Hall at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. Staff and the chair confirmed that at least 7 local historic organizations will have tables at the event and share updates on their Heritage Grant Program projects. This event will also be open to the public. Commissioners Petrich and Sanchez were appointed to the subcommittee which will be meeting via Zoom Thursday evening to plan for the event. An agenda needs to be created and staff will work with the PIO office to publicize the event and will request the County Commissioners attendance.

E. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Kirkwood gave an overview of the project. There are no updates and a purchasing process still needs to be created by staff once the MOU is completed with the City of Lacey.

F. Plaque Purchasing Update

The Yelm Cemetery plaque has been ordered and paid for.

G. Heritage Grant Application Update

Staff informed the group that 8 Heritage Grant Applications were received timely and complete. The subcommittee will meet at the end of September to review and rank the applications. They will present their recommendations to the entire Historic Commission at the October or November meeting and will be ready to offer the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners by the end of the year.

H. Letter to Tenino Interpretive Panel

Commissioner Hoffman had informed the Commission at a previous meeting that a historic kiosk in Tenino was in disrepair. Staff has drafted a letter addressed to the City requesting maintenance be done to the kiosk. The Commission would like to offer to meet with the City to discuss the necessary repairs and move forward with sending the letter.

I. Staff Updates

Staff did not have any further updates.

J. Other Business

- Ken Balsley thanked Graced and Chris for reading his book that is soon to be published!

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.
Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.