

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, August 10, 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

Members & Alternates Absent: Beth Mathews, Tamara Hayes

Chairing: Grace Edwards

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Jeremy Davis, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Janice Arnold, Stan Klyne, Rebecca Sanchez

CALL TO ORDER

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

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 August 10, 2022 agenda. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion carried.

B. Heritage Day Planning

Commissioner Kirkwood suggested removing Commissioner Taylor from the subcommittee list for this and add someone else, as she is no longer a part of the Commission. He also discussed writing a letter to previous Heritage Grant Program recipients to encourage their participation at

the Heritage Day event. Commissioner Edwards will work on preparing the letter and asked whether the fairgrounds are definitely scheduled. Staff will follow up.

C. July 16th Book Launch Recap

Commissioner Edwards gave a recap on the July 16th official book launch. It went well and a lot of the authors were present to give presentations on their sections of the book to celebrate it's a release. The turnout was not as large as expected and no County Commissioners attended, but it was a nice celebration. Commissioner Hoffman added that he did not know what to expect for attendance and felt like maybe a 10th of what was planned for attended. It was a great opportunity for the authors and editors to celebrate the accomplishment. Commissioner Edwards added that Lake Fair may have hurt the attendance numbers instead of assisted them. Mr. Davis informed the Commission that Commissioner Mejia called that morning and had a scheduling conflict. Commissioner Kirkwood added that the director of CPED was present at the event and that the book represents 11 years of Historic Commission work and maybe could have been better attended by Historic Commission members. Commissioner Lindstrom enjoyed that two of the authors who are no longer with us were recognized and received high praise from family members and others for their accomplishments and contributions.

D. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Kirkwood has an estimate on some of the materials and is working on the roof design. The subcommittee met with the Lacey RAC park maintenance manager and the City will take care of irrigation and electrical units in the way. Commissioner Kirkwood is hopeful to start work by the end of the month. Commissioner Hoffman added that they also have a concrete contractor to do the flat work and a location to dispose of soils. Commissioner Kirkwood stated that the contract will need to go through a bidding process, and that a process needs to be created with staff to pay for the items and materials. Staff will meet with Fiscal department to plan out purchasing and find which account to use when working with the lumber yard.

Commissioner Lindstrom asked if there will be a kiosk with no panels if construction starts in late August? Commissioner Kirkwood answered that the kiosk will be constructed offsite and reassembled at the final location later.

Commissioner Lindstrom has been working on the Nisqually panel with Nettsie Bullchild. Ms. Bullchild suggested starting with present day and drawing back into the historical aspects, Commissioner Lindstrom has sent the draft to committee members. Ms. Bullchild sent 4 photos and Commissioner Lindstrom would like to have another historical aspect photo, such as the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty from 1855. Ms. Bullchild would like to have the Nisqually website listed on the panel and she has provided references for some of the facts. The map still needs work, Commissioner Lindstrom asked that Commissioner Kirkwood forward him the regional map he has for review.

Staff shared an email with the chair stating that volunteers will need to sign a volunteer service agreement prior to working which will also be signed by the Director. Also, that Theresa Reid with the Fairgrounds would let the Commission use one of the buildings for delivery and storage of materials and to do the work. This would keep the work on County property reducing liability

and would allow a county employee to supervise the work. The Commission would like staff to make these arrangements. Staff is also making progress on the care and maintenance agreement of the kiosk.

Commissioner Hoffman spoke with the Ostrom Mushroom Farm owner's and did not receive any additional photos from them. Commissioner Kirkwood suggested checking the Olympian. Commissioner Balsley took photos of the process in the past for the Lacey Leader and suggested he check with Jim Keough for the photos. So far Commissioner Hoffman has an aerial photo, side photo of the building, and a photo of mushrooms.

E. Grand Mound School Site Visit Update

Commissioner Kirkwood, Commissioner Hoffman, and staff met at the site the previous week with the applicants, Janice Arnold and Stan Klyne who were present at the meeting. He added that the subcommittee met with Marygrace Goddu with the City of Olympia prior to the meeting and discussed the merits of the building. He believes the subcommittee could recommend placing the building on the historic register. Commissioner Hoffman echoed the chairs statement that the changes made to the property and the efforts of the applicants to restore the building were for the benefit of the building and the benefit of its history. Commissioner Roe asked if the outside is now brick? Commissioner Kirkwood answered that the mortar was failing in the 1950's and was colorcreted and has had various paint jobs since. Ms. Arnold added that she is painting the outline of the existing bricks in different shades of red to match the original brick coloring. She also provided an addendum showing the July 22, 1957 school board meeting that discussed the need to fix the building and the bids for the colorcrete. She stated that it has been a labor of love, but is standing the test of time, the trial painting from 1999 still looks like new.

Commissioner Balsley stated that he had experience approving and denying historic register applications on the Lacey Historic Commission. They focused on whether the exterior of a building had been significantly changed. He felt that the building may not qualify for placement on the Historic Register, but the property and school are of historical significance and should be recognized.

Commissioner Kirkwood added that the windows do a good job replicating the original windows and the roof has only minor changes. He does not feel that these changes compromise the look of the building. He added that the applicants also have plans to make the front door look more like the original by removing the covered entryway. Mr. Davis suggested researching to see if a person of historical significance attended the school.

The Commission asked to have the public hearing at the September meeting. Staff will work on the staff report.

Ms. Arnold asked what a preferred roof material would be as they are needing to replace the roof in the near future. Commissioner Balsley stated that it needs to model the historic roof as closely as possible. Commissioner Hoffman added that the roof is barely visible from the ground and isn't very concerned by it. Commissioner Kirkwood requested adding this in the staff report as we do not know enough about the building at this point.

Commissioner Edwards thanked Ms. Arnold for her information and questions and looks forward to working together on the application.

F. Plaque Purchasing Update

Commissioner Kirkwood sent the proof to the cemetery staff to confirm it is correct. Staff will follow up with the sign company.

G. Down Through the Decades Cancellation

Commissioner Edwards gave an overview of the Down Through the Decades Day at the Thurston County Fair on Sunday. Historic groups were dropping out of the event and the Commission decided not to participate either. There were issues with the planning of the theme and the heat. Commissioner Kirkwood added that the group is an ongoing group of Thurston historic organizations that is now called Thurston Throwback. It would be good for the Commission to have a member participate with the group and prepare for this and other events.

Staff added that overall the attendance of the fair was down 40% but the market sales were up.

H. Historic Commission Application Review

The Historic Commission has received 2 applications to join the Commission. Both applicants were in attendance, David Petrich, and Rebecca Sanchez. Introductions were made.

Commissioner Lindstrom made a motion to recommend the appointment of Rebecca Sanchez and David Petrich to the Historic Commission. Commissioner Balsley seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

I. Staff Updates

Mr. Davis discussed the draft handbook that was routed by staff to the Historic Commission. He asked that the Historic Commission put together a small subcommittee to review the handbook and provide feedback to be shared with the BoCC. Commissioner Edwards, Balsley and Kirkwood will join the subcommittee.

Staff will set up a zoom meeting to discuss the draft handbook next week.

J. Other Business

- Ken Balsley shared that the KGY radio station will be celebrating its 100th birthday from 11 to 4 on Saturday 8/13.
- Ken asked if there was any news about renaming the County. Staff has not been informed whether the BoCC has had any discussions on this topic.
- Rob requested writing a letter to the City of Tenino regarding the maintenance of the heritage kiosk at one of their parks as it received HGP funds. Chris had mentioned the kiosks poor condition at the previous meeting.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.