

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission

Wednesday, June 8, 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, Charlie Roe, Chris Hoffman,

Members & Alternates Absent: Beth Mathews, Ken Balsley, Tamara Hayes, Bill Lindstrom

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 Co-Chair Edwards.

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Attendance

Attendance of the Historic Commission was noted by Staff.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to approve the June 8, 2022 agenda. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Kirkwood moved to approve the May 11, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion carried.

B. Heritage Day Planning

Commissioner Edwards informed the Commission that Heritage Day will now be held on October 8th when the Heritage Hall at the Thurston County Fairgrounds is available. The subcommittee will be meeting to set the time of the event and organize the format of the event.

Commissioner Edwards volunteered to draft an email to send to Heritage Grantees to request their participation. She would also like to request that a County Commissioner attend the event.

C. July 16th Book Launch Event

The book launch event is scheduled for July 16th at the Olympia Center at 1:00 pm and coincides with Lake Fair which should help boost attendance. Mr. Davis requested that the subcommittee submit a proposal with a price for refreshments for the event by June 24th at the latest to give staff time for approval. He also informed the group that any spending the Historic Commission does on approved budgets will no longer need additional approval from the budget office prior to making a purchase, this should help speed up approved purchases in the future. Staff have been working with Ms. Crowell and the Public Information Office to promote the event. The Commission is hopeful that the majority of the Commission members will attend the event. Staff will send a special meeting notice making it clear that no official Historic Commission business will be discussed at the event if there is a quorum.

D. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Hoffman has been working with Commissioner Lindstrom on drafting the panel on the Ostrom Mushroom Farm. They are still working on the design of the panel and the scale of text to photos. Commissioner Kirkwood stated that there will be a subcommittee meeting on June 24th, this date can change to accommodate Commissioner Hoffman's availabilities. Mr. Davis stated that the Board of County Commissioners will be making a decision on the budget amendments on June 14th, after that date the Commission can move forward with laying out a purchasing and contracting process and discuss volunteer labor. Staff will schedule a zoom meeting for this.

E. County Fair/Birthday Celebration

Commissioner Kirkwood contacted the Fairgrounds and is waiting to hear back from the person in charge of coordinating the Down Through the Decades program. He will follow up. The Commission will be needing volunteers to work the table.

F. Plaque Purchasing

Commissioner Kirkwood has a proposal from the plaque company and the text has been approved by the Yelm Cemetery. He would like to proceed with purchasing this plaque for the Cemetery, as there is no cost difference for purchasing multiple plaques. Mr. Davis confirmed the Commission has been approved for purchasing the plaque but would like to wait until the budget amendments are approved on June 14th. Commissioner Hoffman suggested reaching out to the plaque company about designing the plaques in a way that they can be easily mounted, this will need to be discussed with them prior to purchasing the plaque.

Commissioner Edwards asked the status of the plaque program, whether it would be a drawing and how that would work. Mr. Davis said he will be taking Commissioner Roe's proposal to the legal department to help come up with a process. Commissioner Edwards would like to have the Grant Promotions subcommittee meet to create a process proposal. Staff will schedule a meeting.

G. Staff Updates

Mr. Davis requested that the Commission add the workplan and budget discussion to the July agenda. The change requests begin in August for the 2-year budget and he would like to discuss project ideas and budgets prior to that date and have a follow up subcommittee meeting after to help finalize change requests. Commissioner Edwards suggested polling the Historic Commission to ensure there will be a quorum at the July meeting, staff will send an email.

H. Other Business

- Commissioner Edwards asked the status on the Lucas Harding Special Tax Valuation application. Mr. Davis plans to bring this to the HC at the July meeting to make a decision on the application.
- Commissioner Edwards asked if there has been any progress on recruiting members and suggested making this a priority. The County PIO would like to help promote with short videos from Commission members.
- Commissioners Edwards and Hoffman gave an update on the Olympia Historical Society awards. The display board turned out great, but there weren't a lot of people in attendance. Commissioner Edwards would like to do something similar for the Historic Commission.
- Commissioner Hoffman visited the City of Lacey Museum and enjoyed their display on 1968, The Year that Rocked Washington exhibit.

I. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.