

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, May 11, 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, Bill Lindstrom, Charlie Roe, Elaine Taylor, Chris Hoffman, Tamara Hayes

Members & Alternates Absent: Beth Mathews, Ken Balsley

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

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 Edwards made a motion to approve the May 11, 2022 agenda. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the April 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

B. Table at the OHC Event

The Historic Commission and staff have been asked to have a table display at the Olympia Heritage Commissions award ceremony on May 25th. Several members said they would volunteer to sit at the table. The Commission would like to have copies of the history book on display as well as flyers to advertise the July 16th History book event and

October 1st Heritage Day. Staff will get the display board from storage and work with the chair to recruit volunteers.

C. Heritage Day Planning

Commissioner Edwards presented the subcommittees updates to the Commission. The subcommittee met earlier in the week and decided to return to the original concept of the Heritage Day of having local historic preservation groups gather to get to know each other and discuss current projects they are working on. It is undecided whether the format will be presentations, or display tables, but there will not be a keynote speaker. The event is scheduled for October 1st, most likely at the Olympia Center.

Mr. Davis inquired with the Fairgrounds and the Historic Commission can rent the Heritage Hall for \$75 an hour. Staff will follow up on the availability for October 1st.

D. Waters, Woods & Prairies Celebration

Commissioner Kirkwood is working with the City of Olympia to rent a conference room at the Olympia Center on July 16th from 1:00-5:00 (this includes set up and take down). Staff will work with the budget office to complete the application. Commissioner Kirkwood is also working with the Olympia Historical Society/Bigelow House Museum to have books available for sale at the event. Sandra Crowell is working to gather authors and editors to participate in the event.

Commissioner Edwards asked how the event is being advertised and who is invited. Staff will work with the PIO office to advertise the event on the County webpage and media groups. Commissioner Kirkwood suggested creating flyers to advertise both this event and the Heritage Day event. Commissioner Hayes volunteered to create the flyers to be ready for the Olympia Heritage Commission event on May 25th.

E. County Fair/Birthday Celebration

The Historic Commission will be participating in the “Down through the decades” event at the Thurston County Fair. Local history groups have tables with interactive displays for the one-day event. There will also be a cake ceremony to celebrate the County’s birthday.

F. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Kirkwood gave an update that the engineering work should be done by the end of May. Commissioner Lindstrom asked the Commission if they had any objections to Sandra Crowell writing the panel for the Nisqually Tribe that she has been working on. The Commission was more than happy to have Sandra continue writing the panel. Commissioner Balsley has been trying to meet with the City of Lacey to view photos. The subcommittee will meet prior to the next meeting.

G. Plaques Lottery

Commissioner Kirkwood has received language from the Yelm Cemetery for their bronze Historic Register Plaque. The plaque and engraving will cost \$778 with each purchase, staff will work with the budget office to make this purchase. Commissioner Kirkwood also reached out to the owners of the Lucas Harding Residence about purchasing a plaque for their property that was recently added to the register, and they are interested.

The next steps will be to create a procedure for granting plaques annually through a lottery as well as a program to sell plaques to those who wish to purchase them. There will also need to be procedures for installation, site review, and monitoring.

H. Updating Thurston County Placenames Book

There have been no updates to this request made by Shanna Stevenson. Mr. Davis suggested she apply for a Heritage Grant to assist with the costs of updating the book. Commissioner Kirkwood will share the suggestion with Ms. Stevenson.

I. CLG Grant Update

Mr. Davis informed the group that the application for 2023 CLG grant was not received in time for the budget office to review. The new timeline for grant review is 30 days. Staff will send a reminder to the subcommittee in late December to begin preparations for the next grant to allow more time. Mr. Davis reiterated that the budget portion of the application is the highest priority.

Commissioner Taylor informed the group that she will not be applying for re-appointment to the Historic Commission when her term expires at the end of May. The Commission is sad to see her go and thanked her for her time spent with the group her contributions!

J. Staff Updates

Mr. Davis happily shared the news that Commissioner Roe was reappointed to the Historic Commission!

K. Other Business

- Commissioner Roe shared his excitement for the Heritage Day and getting to know other local historic groups.
- Commissioner Hayes let the group know that she has a busy summer and may not be able to attend many of the additional events that the Commission is participating in.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.