

## MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission  
Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development  
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

**Members & Alternates Present:** Rob Kirkwood, Charlie Roe, Elaine Taylor, Grace Edwards, Sandy Crowell, Paul Hooper, Beth Mathews, Ken Balsley

**Members & Alternates Absent:**

**Chairing:** Rob Kirkwood

**Staff Present:** Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development  
Jeremy Davis, Community Planning & Economic Development

**Guests:** Bill Lindstrom, Sharon Brown-Kabanuck

### 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 Crowell made a motion to amend the February 10, 2021 agenda, moving the Book discussion to the budget discussion. Commissioner Edwards moved to move the White House Hearing to the first item. Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the Agenda as amended. Commissioner Balsley seconded. Motion carried.

##### 3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Mathews requested an amendment to the January 13, 2021 meeting notes. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the meeting notes as amended. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.

#### B. The White House Historic Register Public Hearing Continued

Prior to the meeting the Historic Commission received additional information from the applicants regarding the families ties to Yelm and Thurston County, as well as a timeline of property owners of the White House and their historical significance. Commissioner Kirkwood reviewed several properties on the Historic Register and found that at least two had vinyl windows. The windows are similar in appearance to the originals as are the vinyl windows of the White House. Commissioner Kirkwood did not believe that the use of vinyl windows should prevent the property from being placed on the Historic Register.

**Commissioner Kirkwood made a motion to place the White House on the Thurston County Historic Commission. Commissioner Balslev seconded. The call to vote was unanimous. Motion carried.**

#### **C. 2021 Budget and Work Plan**

The Commission discussed the 2021 budget and work plan. Each year the Commission receives \$10,000 for projects, this year there will be an additional \$5,000 from the Heritage Grant Program. The proposed budget is as follows” County Fair- \$200, Summit Meeting- \$1,500, Historic Journal \$10,000 (from a separate allocation), 2022 Grant Promotions-\$250, DAHP training-\$1,000, RAC Interpretive Panels-\$3000, Stairwell Pictures-\$500-1000, Plaques-\$3,000.

In the January meeting the Commission voted to pursue a reprint of the History Book, “Water, Woods, and Prairies”, they have agreed to write a proposal to present to the Board of County Commissioners to request additional funds for the reprint. The \$5,000 surplus from the Heritage Grant Program could be allocated to the reprinting of the book as well. Some members had reservations about reprinting the book without considering making edits to be more inclusive as was noted in an editorial, others felt the issue could be addressed in a later edition or addendum because of the current demand for the book. Discussion continued whether to write an addendum to the book or insert a flyer into the reprints to express the desire to be more inclusive in a later edition and request feedback.

Commissioner Crowell informed the Commission that the history book, “Water, Woods, and Prairies” was nominated for a City of Olympia Heritage Award for 2020.

#### **D. Lucas Harding Residence Staff Report update**

Staff gave a brief update on the historic findings of the Lucas Harding Residence Historic Register application. This topic is set to go to hearing in April.

#### **E. Cozy Valley Road Update**

Staff gave a brief update on this Cozy Valley Historic Road Sign Application which is also set to go to hearing in April.

**F. Heritage Grant Updates**

Mr. Davis informed the Commission that on February 9<sup>th</sup> the Board of County Commissioners approved Heritage Grants to the nine applicants who applied for 2021 funding. The BoCC also approved 1-year extensions to the five 2020 HGP Grantees who and requested extensions, as well as additional Covid related extensions to two 2019 Grantees.

**G. County Fair**

The Thurston County Fair is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>. There is a chance that it will be canceled because of Covid-19, the Commission agreed to plan for the annual birthday party.

**H. Historic Journal**

Commissioner Roe informed the group that the latest edition of the Journal was published in January and the next edition will be available in April.

**I. DAHP Virtual Training-**

Ms. Cady let the group know about the upcoming free virtual DAHP training available on March 4, 2021. She sent the email with the registration information after the meeting.

**J. DAHP Grant Application**

Commissioner Kirkwood asked the group if they would like to use last year's CLG grant application to apply for a 2022 grant to update the Thurston County Historic Register. The Commission agreed to pursue a grant, the due date is April 23, 2021.

**K. RAC Interpretive Panels**

Commissioner Edwards read the memo that Commissioner Hooper had prepared for the subcommittee detailing the events and decisions that led to a collaborative project with the City of Lacey at the Regional Athletic Field. The subcommittee will be attending the City of Lacey's meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Interpretive Panels.

**L. Stairwell Pictures**

Commissioner Kirkwood has found the originals for two of the four Stairwell photos in Building One at the Courthouse, they are the Tenino Quarry and Farm scene images. The Commission will need to select 2 new photos to replace the originals that cannot be found, Commissioner Crowell offered to reach out to the Squaxin Island Tribe to try and locate one of the images. Once the images are selected the Commission will need to

request approval from the County Manager to hang the images. The Historic Commission would like to place them in ADA accessible locations.

**O. Plaques**

Commissioner Kirkwood had provided the Commission with sketches and price quotes he had received for the Historic Register plaques. The plaques can be shaped liked Thurston County, or oval shaped. The Historic Commission would prefer to create plaques in the shape of Thurston County. The initial set up cost would be between \$400-950, and each plaque would be around \$300 after. The Yelm Cemetery will receive the first bronze plaque. Staff will inquire with the legal department to confirm that plaques can be given to private property owners. The hope is to give all properties on the register a plaque to indicate its position on the Historic Register.

**M. Subcommittee Updates**

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- ☐ Outreach Committee- discussed during budget discussions
- ☐ Historic Resources- discussed during budget discussions
- ☐ Interpretive- discussed during budget discussions

Commission members will let the Chair know which subcommittees they wish to be on. Commissioner Kirkwood is considering changing the three-subcommittee format.

**N. Staff Updates**

There were no staff updates, everything was covered earlier in the meeting.

**O. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**P. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

*Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.*