

## MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023  
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development  
3000 Pacific Ave SE, Room 110, Olympia, WA 98501

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

**Members & Alternates Absent:** John Grenier

**Chairing:** Grace Edwards

**Staff Present:** Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development  
Andrew Deffobis, Community Planning & Economic Development

**Guests:**

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by Chair Edwards. Commissioner Edwards opened with kind words about Commissioner Balsley who passed earlier in the month. Commissioner Balsley was an active member of the Historic Commission and very involved with the community, he will be greatly missed.

### **A. ADMINISTRATION**

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Roll Call-Roll call was taken, Commissioner Grenier was excused.
3. Approval of Agenda

**Commissioner Edwards requested to amend the agenda to remove the training on Waters, Woods & Prairies until April and replace it with Conservation Futures Ranking in its place. Commissioner Kirkwood asked to add an item about the Eagles Building to the agenda. Commissioner Kirkwood made a motion to approve the March 8, 2023 agenda as amended. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion Carried.**

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.**

## **B. Conservation Futures Ranking Committee (Andrew Deffobis)**

Andrew Deffobis with Community Planning attended the meeting requesting a representative and alternate to volunteer for the Conservation Futures ranking committee. Conservation Futures is a Board of County Commissioners approved land conservation program funded by a property tax levy from all landowners in Thurston County. The funds are collected by the County and used by the Board to make conservation acquisitions to purchase property or to place a conservation easement to protect a property in perpetuity. The Board considers the committees rankings in their decision. The committee is made up of various county advisory bodies and staff from various technical agencies.

The volunteers would be asked to review the applications and participate in a Zoom ranking meeting to discuss and rank the applications. The Zoom would be held during business hours in late April to early May and would not take more than 2-3 hours. There is only one application to be reviewed this year. Commissioner Roe volunteered to be a representative. Ms. Cady will check in with Mr. Deffobis once an alternate has been decided.

## **C. CLG Grant update (Rob Kirkwood)**

Commissioner Sanchez shared that the subcommittee has been editing the draft grant application and met via Zoom. The schedule is the last section needing revision, the subcommittee will work with Ms. Stevenson on outlining a schedule. Commissioner Edwards asked what the schedule for taking photos will be? The subcommittee would like to start taking photos in the summer when the weather would be best, but the grant funding won't happen until October. Commissioner Edwards reiterated that the Commission could begin the project without the grant and start taking photos of properties and designate funds in 2024 for the project. Commissioner Kirkwood added that the subcommittee was advised by the CLG coordinator to make the grant application a multiyear project. The first year would include reviewing and photographing each property currently on the Historic Register and determining whether they should remain. The second year would include website updates for the public to access to view the properties, and for public outreach.

## **D. TCHC Re-Boot Subcommittee Report/Ordinance Edits (Grace Edwards)**

Commissioner Edwards gave an update on the subcommittees meeting with Michelle Thompson to review the Ordinance revisions. Ms. Thompson felt the edits were in line with what other CLG's are doing and is currently reviewing an edited version of the ordinance. The subcommittee will be meeting with Ms. Thompson via Zoom on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Edwards went over the timeline for updating the ordinance, it will be reviewed by the Community Planning Manager, then discussions will begin with the Board of County Commissioners, she hopes to have the document ready for review by the entire Historic Commission by the April meeting.

Commissioner Roe asked if the subcommittee has discussed changing the title of the

Commission, Commissioner Edwards confirmed that they are recommending changing the name to the Thurston County Heritage Commission. She also added that Ms. Thompson indicated that the number of members could be reduced from 12 to no less than 5.

#### **E. Yelm Cemetery Plaque Update (Rob Kirkwood)**

Commissioners Kirkwood and Petrich went to the Yelm Cemetery to find a location for the plaque to be placed. The plaque will be mounted to a granite bench that is being relocated to the flagpole area. Commissioner Kirkwood is waiting for a response from his contact at the cemetery to move forward with the installation. Commissioner Edwards is looking forward to the plaque unveiling and asked staff for a status update on the proposed plaque lottery program. Staff will follow up with legal

#### **F. RAC Interpretive Panels Update (Bill Lindstrom)**

Commissioner Lindstrom shared some of the high resolution photos of promotional posters of performances at the Evergreen Ballroom. He has also been successful finding high resolution photos for the Saint Martins and Nisqually Tribe panels. He added that the narrative for the Saint Martins panel is completed and the one for the RAC is nearly finished. Commissioner Sanchez asked if Commissioner Lindstrom received copyright permissions for the posters, he answered that he had. She also suggested getting pictures of the Evergreen Ballroom from the Washington State Archives and the Washington Library. Commissioner Hoffman suggested that the subcommittee pick one panel to send to Bruce to create a mockup panel. Commissioner Lindstrom will send the narrative and photos of the Nisqually Indian Tribe panel since it is the most complete.

Commissioner Lindstrom added that Commissioner Balsley was an integral part of the subcommittee and the motivation to create the historic marker. Commissioner Edwards agreed and suggested dedicating the kiosk to Commissioner Balsley, the Commission agreed. Commissioner Sanchez was asked to join the subcommittee and accepted the request.

#### **G. Historic Register Applications (Sonja Cady)**

Ms. Cady updated the Commission on the two Historic Register applications that have been received. The most recent is a 1901 barn in Yelm known as the Pruitt Barn. The subcommittee has a site visit scheduled to see the barn on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The placement of the Pruitt Barn and Johnsons Whistle Depot to the historic register will both need to be decided at public hearings. Staff is asking the Commission for historic information on both properties.

#### **H. Heritage Caucus (Rob Kirkwood)**

Commissioner Kirkwood had shared information about the Heritage Caucus that is taking place every Wednesday. It is an opportunity see what bills are up that effect the community. The sessions are recorded and can be watched online at any time.

## **I. Eagles Building (Rob Kirkwood)**

Commissioner Kirkwood reached out to the Eagles building located on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Plum St. to suggest they apply for a grant to restore the building historically. He had obtained the original plans from the Washington State Archives and saw that the upstairs originally had multipane industrial windows with arches that had been walled in and lower windows had been replaced with vinyl. Commissioner Kirkwood recently noticed that the upstairs windows have been cleared but replaced with vinyl. The building was designed by Joseph Wohleb and is surrounded by other buildings from the 1920's. Commissioner Kirkwood would have liked to have seen the building restored historically. Discussions continued.

## **J. Staff Updates**

Ms. Cady informed the Historic Commission that staff is working with the budget office to have funds for the RAC Kiosk project and one Heritage Grant roll over into the 2023 budget as a budget amendment.

## **K. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **L. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.  
*Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff*