

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, April 12, 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:

Chairing: Grace Edwards

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

Guests:

CALL TO ORDER

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

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Roll Call-Roll call was taken, all 7 members were present.
3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Roe made a motion to approve the April 12, 2023 agenda, Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lindstrom moved to approve the March 8, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Petrich seconded. Motion carried.

B. Waters, Woods, & Prairies (Sandra Crowell)

Commissioner Emeritus Crowell attended the meeting to present on the Thurston County history book, "Waters, Woods, & Prairies". She shared the process of how the book was written, edited, and eventually published through the dedication of its many supporters, authors, editors, and

staff. She shared that the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum was completely out of copies and the remaining 31 were with the City of Lacey/Lacey Museum. She asked that the Historic Commission find a means to continue publishing the history book to be shared with the community.

Commissioner Lindstrom made a motion to have staff pursue avenues to transfer the book and photo rights to another nonprofit for publication and distribution, or other means to continue the publication of the book. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Call to vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

C. Subcommittee Review/Recruitment (Rob)

The Historic Commission currently has 7 members and needed to adjust each subcommittee to have 3 people or less. The Commission reviewed each subcommittee and staff updated the list.

Commissioner Edwards shared at the end of the meeting that the County PIO posted the Historic Commissions vacancies on their social media sites with a link to the application. Several Commissioners have been reaching out to friends or groups to recruit people.

D. Yelm Cemetery (Rob)

Commissioner Kirkwood is waiting for better weather to mount the Yelm Cemetery plaque to the stone bench.

E. CLG Grant Application Update (Rob/Staff)

Staff informed the Historic Commission that the application is currently being reviewed by the budget office for approval. Then staff will input their billable hours into the budget of the application form and will be ready to submit by the April 28th deadline.

Commissioner Sanchez requested clarification on whether the subcommittee members can begin photographing properties on the register. The group decided that it would be best to begin taking photos prior to grant approval. They requested staff to send the letter to property owners informing them of their status on the register and informing them that Historic Commissioners will be taking photos of the exteriors of their properties. Staff will have the PIO approve the letter and have it mailed to property owners within 2 to 3 weeks. Mr. Davis will follow up on whether Commissioners will need to conduct site visits with County staff in a County vehicle, or if a Thurston County badge for each Commissioner will suffice.

F. RAC Interpretive Panels Update (Bill/Staff)

Commissioner Lindstrom shared his progress on the Evergreen Ballroom panel, including a photo from the Lacey Fire Department of the fire that devastated the ballroom, and a list of musicians who performed there. The subcommittee is still looking for a high-resolution photo of the building pre-fire, Commissioner Hoffman suggested hiring an artist to sketch an image of the ballroom. Commissioner Lindstrom has sent the draft of the Saint Martins panel to Mr. Murray to do the design layout. He also shared the issues the subcommittee has been having deciding

what images to use on the Nisqually panel, this has led to the idea of making a separate Nisqually Indian Tribe panel and Medicine Creek Treaty panel.

Mr. Davis shared that he, Commissioner Balsley, and Ms. Burbidge with the City of Lacey met previously to discuss the MOU between the City and County. Ms. Burbidge had stated that the City did not have the staffing to maintain the kiosk to repair damages or remove graffiti. Mr. Davis and the Director of Community Planning and Economic Development were told by Central Services that they do not have the staffing ability to maintain a kiosk in the City. Director Cummings will check with the Parks department to see whether they would be able to maintain the kiosk.

Commissioner Edwards stated that she will gladly send a letter to the City of Lacey asking to name the Kiosk in honor of Commissioner Ken Balsley, “Mr. Lacey” and to request that the City maintain the kiosk. She also suggested researching high traffic County parks to place the Kiosk if an agreement cannot be made.

G. Historic Register Draft Placement Application (Sonja)

The Historic Commission received a draft Historic Register application to review that staff has been working on. The application is more detailed and will require the applicants to provide more property information when applying for placement to the Historic Register. Commissioner Edwards asked members to provide any comments to Ms. Cady by May 1st.

Ms. Cady stated that the building permit review subcommittee performed site visits to the two properties currently applying for placement to the register. The subcommittee will be ready to take the application for the Johnson’s Whistle Depot Oly Store to a public hearing at the May 10th meeting. There must be a quorum to make a decision on the application, Ms. Cady will send a reminder two weeks prior to May 10th.

H. Heritage Day Planning (Rob)

The 2023 Heritage Day is scheduled for October 14th at Heritage Hall. Staff has secured the reservation at Heritage Hall and the subcommittee will begin planning this years event. Commissioner Edwards is not able to attend but would like to participate with a pre-recorded video.

I. Lacey Fire Department 75th Anniversary (Chris)

Commissioner Hoffman shared that the Lacey Fire Department will be celebrating their 75th anniversary next year in April. He would like the Historic Commission to help promote the event.

J. Staff Updates

- Mr. Davis shared that the budget office has new staff and he and Ms. Cady will be meeting with them on the Historic Commission’s rollover budget.

- Commissioner Kirkwood and staff had a plaque made for Ken Balsley's family to honor his time on the Historic Commission. His celebration of life is scheduled for April 24th and they would like to get the plaque to his family prior to that.

K. Other Business

There was no other business.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff