

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, May 10, 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: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Michelle Thompson, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Troy Wilson, Applicant

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 Edwards requested adding the review of the Troy Wilson application to the agenda and removing the Public Hearing for the placement of the Johnson Whistle Depot East Oly Grocery because the application was withdrawn. Commissioner Kirkwood made a motion to approve the May 10, 2023 agenda as amended, Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve the April 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

B. Presenting Jan Teague with Ken Balsley Plaque (Grace)

Commissioner Edwards presented Jan Teague, the wife of Ken Balsley, with a plaque in the shape of Thurston County thanking him and his family for his years of dedication to the Thurston County Historic Commission. Ken was known as Mr. Lacey and will be remembered for all he has done for the community. Ms. Teague accepted the plaque and had kind words to share about Commissioner Balsley's time and experiences on the Historic Commission.

C. Review of Troy Wilson Application (Grace Edwards)

The Historic Commission received and reviewed the application of Troy Wilson to the Historic Commission. Mr. Wilson was present at the meeting and introduced himself giving a brief overview of his extensive historical and archaeological experiences. The Commissioners and staff gave introductions as well.

Commissioner Lindstrom made a motion to accept Mr. Wilson's application to the Historic Commission and recommend appointment to the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Petrich seconded. Call to vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

D. Public Hearing for Historic Register Application (Grace)

Commissioner Edwards announced at the opening of the meeting that the applicants for the placement of the Johnsons Whistle Depot East Oly Grocery had withdrawn their application earlier that day. The Historic Commission stated that they would be interested in pursuing options to recognize the historical significance of the store and surrounding East Olympia features like the train station, school, and Johnsons Smokehouse. Ms. Thompson with DAHP said she could work with the Historic Commission on recognizing a historic location versus building.

E. Historic Register Site Visit Training (Michelle Thompson, DAHP)

The County's Certified Local Government (CLG) coordinator, Michelle Thompson was at the meeting to present on historic architectural styles to prepare for site visits to update the historic register. Ms. Thompson emailed the slides to staff which were shared with the Commission.

F. Yelm Cemetery (Rob)

Commissioner Kirkwood did not have many updates on the Yelm Cemetery Historic Register plaque mounting. He and Commissioner Petrich were potentially scheduled to mount the plaque on May 11th but had not heard back from the people at the cemetery. Staff will connect Commissioners Kirkwood, Edwards, and the County PIO together to begin planning an unveiling ceremony.

G. CLG Grant Application Update (Sonja)

The CLG grant application was submitted on to DAHP on schedule and staff is waiting to hear back. Staff is working with Central Services to have photo ID badges printed for each member to wear when conducting site visits.

H. RAC Interpretive Panel Update (Rob/Bill)

Commissioner Kirkwood gave an overview on the RAC project for Mr. Wilson and how it all started with Commissioner Balsley wanting to place a historic marker at the location of the old Evergreen Ballroom. Commissioner Hoffman stated that he will be meeting with Lacey's Mayor, Andy Ryder on May 16th to discuss the kiosks placement at the RAC. Commissioner Edwards asked whether the budget for the project had been approved and if the Commission is ready to move forward with building. She would like to see the project move forward even though the MOU has not been completed. The budget has been approved but the panels are not ready and we building materials have not been purchased. Ms. Cady will ask Mr. Davis about drafting a letter to the City.

Commissioner Lindstrom shared his progress on the Medicine Creek Treaty panel and shared photos of the time capsule placed there. He also has been working with Nisqually Tribe for photos and information for their panel, and has posters for the Evergreen Ballroom panel. Mr. Keough of the Lacey Historical Commission shared that he has been working on finding photos with sufficient resolution for his panel.

I. Heritage Day Planning (Rob)

The Historic Commission will be hosting their third annual Heritage Day on October 14th at Heritage Hall. Commissioner Edwards requested staff to provide a copy of the invitation that was sent to Heritage Grant Program (HGP) recipients for last year's Heritage Day. She would like to invite HGP recipients again to present their projects and potentially have a keynote speaker. Commissioner Petrich recommended inviting the owners of the Grand Mound Schoolhouse to present as well.

J. Staff Updates

- Ms. Cady informed the Commission that Mr. Davis will be the interim Community Planning Manager.

K. Other Business

Commissioner Roe shared information on the Conservation Futures program that he volunteered to participate in. Only one application was submitted for review this year.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff