

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, June 14, 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, Troy Wilson

Members & Alternates Absent:

Chairing: Grace Edwards

Staff Present: Polly Stoker, Community Planning & Economic Development

Jeremy Davis, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Charles Gloyd

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 8 members were present.
3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Kirkwood requested adding the Historic Commission ordinance to the agenda. Commissioner Kirkwood made a motion to approve the June 14, 2023 agenda as amended, Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lindstrom moved to approve the May 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

B. Introduction of Dana Bowers (Grace)

Ms. Bowers was unable to attend the meeting, Commissioner Edwards explained to the Commission that Ms. Bowers is a planner with Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) that will be working with the Historic Commission as Mr. Davis has a new role with the department. Mr. Davis added the Ms. Bowers is an Associate Planner with a background in Education and Outreach and has unique skills that will assist the Commission. She will be attending the meetings in place of Mr. Davis and assisting with the work program. Commissioner Hoffman added how intelligent and enthusiastic Ms. Bowers was in his brief meeting with her.

C. Review of Charles Gloyd Application (Grace Edwards)

The Historic Commission received and reviewed the application of Charles Gloyd to the Historic Commission. Mr. Gloyd was present at the meeting and introduced himself. The Commissioners and staff gave introductions as well.

Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) that Charles Gloyd be appointed to the Historic Commission. Commissioner Petrich seconded. Call to vote, All in favor. Motion carried.

D. CLG Grant Presentation July 12th (Rob/staff)

Commissioner Edwards thanked the subcommittee for their hard work on the application for the CLG grant. The presentation for the CLG grant is July 12th and the subcommittee will need to meet to plan the presentation. Mr. Davis explained that a CLG is a Certified Local Government which requires certain state and federal responsibilities are met, this makes the County eligible to apply for grants for historic preservation and education. As a CLG, the TCHC is responsible for reviewing exterior modifications to buildings on the historic register, as well as maintaining and placing/removing properties on the register. The Commission has a grant program to further historic preservation and education in the County, and they sponsor an annual Heritage Day. The Historic Commission receives \$1 from every document recording, this money is used for the Historic Commissions annual budget, Heritage Grants, and additional projects. Each year the Historic Commission discusses potential projects and creates a budget, staff takes this work program to the BoCC for approval. Commissioner Edwards asked if the budget was on track this year, Mr. Davis believes change requests for budget amendments are due to the BoCC at the end of July, he will check with the financial office.

Commissioner Wilson asked who decides the CLG grant. Mr. Davis answered that it is a state run program with federal pass through dollars, the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) review and decide on the applications. The grants are available annually, the TCHC forms a subcommittee to complete the application which is presented to the entire Commission prior to submitting. A presentation is scheduled with DAHP if the application is accepted, and grants are awarded in October.

Commissioner Kirkwood will not be available for the presentation on the 12th. Commissioner Edwards is working on shifting her schedule to attend the presentation, Mr. Davis will most likely attend. Commissioner Edwards requested the presentation requirements, staff will forward

them. Mr. Gloyd asked how many grants are issued each year? Staff and Commissioner Kirkwood answered that it varies each year, this year there are roughly 10 applicants with around \$125,000 available. Commissioner Kirkwood reiterated that the grant is to hire a consultant to update the Historic Register, and that the Commission intends on reviewing the registered properties regardless of the status of the grant. Commissioner Edwards reminded the Commissioners to submit their ID Badge form and photo to staff. Staff will resend the form. Commissioner Edwards asked the status of the outreach process to contact property owners, staff will work with the PIO.

E. 2024 Heritage Grant Program (HGP) Applications (Staff)

The grant period will run from July 15th through August 31st, Ms. Cady will send the grant applications and guidelines to the Commission prior to the July meeting. Commissioner Kirkwood shared some of the historic groups that have received HGP funding over the years including the Olympia Historical Society/Bigelow House Museum, The Brewhouse Foundation, the City of Tenino for their museum, Dr. Thelma Jackson for the publication of her history book on blacks in Thurston County, The Sand Man Foundation for restorations to the tugboat, The City of Lacey for photograph preservation and cataloging. Commissioner Wilson asked how many grants are awarded each year? Staff answered that each grant is typically for \$5,000 with \$35,000-\$45,000 granted each year. The subcommittee will review and rank applications and make a recommendation to the Historic Commission prior to presenting a final recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners at the end of the year.

F. Yelm Cemetery (Rob)

The Historic Register Bronze plaque was installed at the Yelm Cemetery by Commissioners Kirkwood and Hoffman. It is the first property on the register to receive a plaque and the Commission will be hosting an unveiling ceremony to kick off the plaque program and honor the cemetery. Staff and the subcommittee are working with the County PIO on announcing and promoting the event. The subcommittee will schedule a meeting to set the date and await follow up from the PIO.

G. Heritage Day Planning (Grace)

Commissioner Edwards shared the details on Heritage Day and its intent to gather with other local historic groups to share ideas and projects as well as celebrate the County's birthday. The 4th annual Heritage Day will be held at the County Fairgrounds on October 14th. Heritage Grant recipients have been asked to present at the event again, three groups have confirmed as of now. Staff will follow up to see who was sent the announcement and send a follow up.

H. Waters, Woods, and Prairies Update (Bill)

Commissioner Edwards gave an overview on the Thurston County history book that was written and edited by Historic Commissioners and local historians. The book has been published several times and distributed by the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum (OHS/BHM) who have fulfilled their book distribution contract with the County. Commissioner Lindstrom shared that the City of Lacey has expressed interest in taking ownership of the book

and potentially purchasing the rights for additional printings. Staff is researching the transfer of photo permissions to the City and is working with Ms. Crowell to find whether permissions were granted verbally or in writing from the individuals who provided photos. Commissioner Petrich asked if the City of Lacey would be responsible for future printings if they take over the rights, will it be up to them to obtain the rights again if they go over allotted number of copies? Mr. Davis answered yes. Commissioner Kirkwood added that each printing of the book has been roughly \$20,000 and the County is not able to sell the book, that is why the books were granted to OHS/BHM. They were granted the books and able to sell them and use the profits for historic preservation.

Mr. Davis suggested the City acquire the intellectual rights of the book and purchase the rights of the photos that require permissions. They would then be able to publish and distribute the books as needed.

Commissioner Edwards confirmed with staff if the deadline to allocate funds for another printing of the book would be in July. Mr. Davis answered that it would be, but at this time the County does not have a contract with a nonprofit to distribute the books. The city of Lacey would have to apply for another grant to distribute the books if the County were to publish more. Commissioner Edwards would be interested in discussing this option further.

Staff will set up a meeting with the City of Lacey and Commissioner Edwards, Lindstrom and Kirkwood. The County will continue to research the rights of the photos and the intellectual rights of the book.

I. RAC Interpretive Panel Update (Rob)

Commissioner Edwards gave a brief overview on the 8-sided history kiosk to be placed at the Regional Athletic Center (RAC). Mr. Davis met with Director Burbidge earlier in the month to make edits to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the maintenance of the structure. The final edits have been passed by the Lacey Parks Board and will go before the Lacey Historical Commission on June 21st. Director Cummings with CPED is giving the MOU a final review prior to going to the BoCC for approval. The hold up on the MOU was about the day-to-day maintenance of the kiosk. The MOU details which jurisdiction is responsible for what duties, the City will maintain the landscaping and any maintenance of clean up like graffiti, the County will fund any major fixes or tear downs if necessary and be responsible to change the panels.

Commissioner Kirkwood anticipates the building of the kiosk to begin in September at the soonest. Materials need to be acquired, the MOU needs to be approved by the BoCC, and the panels need to be completed. Commissioner Lindstrom shared that the graphic designer has all the information for the Saint Martins panel, and that the Evergreen Ballroom and Nisqually panels are getting close to completion.

J. Staff Updates

- The County is looking for Fair workers

K. Other Business

- Commissioner Edwards reminded the Commission that the subcommittee has proposed updates to the ordinance, the subcommittee met with the CLG coordinator, Michelle Thompson to ensure that the proposed changes are in compliance. Mr. Davis will review the proposed edits prior to the next meeting. The BoCC is currently reviewing all the advisory boards and commissions ordinances in preparation for the change to a 5 Commissioner board.
- The County usually participates in the Down Through the Decades event at the Thurston County Fair with other local historic groups. Staff has been working to find a contact for the organization to see if the event is continuing this year, there were not many participants the previous year. Commissioner Kirkwood added that the event was tied to the Tumwater School District and many of the teachers involved have since retired.

L. Adjournment

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

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff