

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
3000 Pacific Ave SE, Room 110, Olympia, WA 98501

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

Members & Alternates Absent: Charles Gloyd

Chairing: Grace Edwards

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Shanna Stevenson, Michelle Thompson, Jim Keough,

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, attendance is listed above
- 3. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner Roe moved to approve the September 13, 2023 agenda. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

- 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve the August 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

B. Site Visit Training (Shanna/Michelle)

Michelle Thompson with DAHP and Shanna Stevenson with the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum met via Zoom to give input and trainings on site visits. The Commission reviewed the historic property evaluation form and suggested creating more space

for writing, Ms. Thompson added that paper copies are easiest to take into the field, Ms. Stevenson agreed and requested that a section from the Historic Register Application be added to the form. Staff will make these updates and send out for review.

Ms. Bowers stated that staff will be meeting with Ms. Thompson the following day to discuss the scope of work of the contract, once this is complete the County can move forward with the Ms. Stevenson's contract as the consultant. Commissioner Lindstrom asked how site visits will be assigned? Commissioners Hoffman and Gloyd had been working on a plan dividing the county into sections for teams of two to conduct site visits. It was decided that assigning by location may not work since residents will need to give approval prior to site visits and appointments will need to be scheduled. The Commission agreed it would be easiest to have the property owner call staff to arrange an appointment and staff would follow up to see what Commissioners were available at that time. Commissioner Kirkwood suggested giving people the option to allow Commissioners to perform site visits at any time without an appointment. Additional edits to the letter were discussed, staff will send a letter for review the following week.

It was decided that the letter will be mailed with the historic register brochure and the nomination form showing who nominated the property for placement on the register, when it was placed, and what the historic features are. Commissioners will have copies of the Historic Register with them to share with property owners during site visits. The goal is to visit the first 30 properties placed on the Historic Register.

Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to proceed with the grant project to update the Historic Register with the tools provided. Commissioner Petrich seconded. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance Revision (Dana)

Ms. Bowers informed the Commissioners that she is currently reviewing the proposed revisions to the ordinance and appreciates the Commissioners efforts in their revisions. The Historic Commission currently has several large projects and events that have been more pressing and prioritized ahead of the ordinance revision including the RAC Kiosk, book transfer, and Yelm Cemetery event. She is happy to meet in October to have a larger discussion on the revisions. Commissioner Lindstrom requested that the proposed revisions be forwarded to the Commission, staff will do so.

D. Yelm Cemetery Event (Staff)

Commissioner Edwards will be speaking at the Yelm Cemetery plaque unveiling event on September 16th. County Commissioner Gary Edwards will be speaking along with Gary Sortor from the Cemetery Commission. She asked that all Commissioners attend the event if they are able.

E. Heritage Day Planning (Grace)

Commissioner Edwards informed the Commission that 8 groups will be presenting at the 4th annual Heritage Day on October 14th. She asked if invitations had gone out to the public, staff

will be working on this once the Yelm cemetery event has concluded. Commissioner Hoffman suggested staff contact Ken Balsleys wife, Jan Teague, and request that she attend Heritage Day with Ken's Award to be shared at the event. Staff will reach out to Ms. Teague. Staff will put in a request with the County Manager to purchase refreshments to celebrate the County's birthday, schedule a subcommittee meeting for the following week, and schedule presentation times with the presenters.

F. Water, Woods, Prairies (Bill/Staff)

Commissioner Lindstrom shared that the Lacey City Council had met the previous night and discussed the book MOU. Ms. Burbidge is currently out of the office so the status is unknown. Ms. Bowers said she will review any proposed changes with Ms. Burbidge on her return, once an agreement is made, she will take it to the county attorney and management for review. Commissioner Roe asked whether the BoCC approved the budget to print the book. Ms. Bowers answered that we won't know until December when the budget is finalized. CPED made the request to set aside historic preservation funds for a printing of the book. If necessary, these funds can be rolled over into 2025.

G. RAC Interpretive Panel Update (Rob)

Commissioner Edwards gave the update that the RAC MOU with the county and city of Lacey was approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Staff will update the Commission once they know the status from Lacey. Ms. Bowers is working with Ms. Burbidge on flat work at the site and Commissioner Kirkwood is updating the supply list and quote.

Commissioner Lindstrom added that the subcommittee is waiting for the MOU to be fully approved prior to having the artist, Bruce Murray, print the panels. He added that the majority of the eight panels have the parameters figured as well as the photos and narratives. He is working with the Nisqually Tribe on their panel. He also asked Commissioner Sanchez to join the RAC subcommittee, she agreed.

The group discussed the frequency that they would like to change out the panels at the kiosk and will need to set a schedule to plan the budget for producing panels. Commissioner Hoffman suggested creating as many panels as possible to utilize Bruce's software license before it expires. Commissioner Kirkwood requested scheduling a time with Ms. Bowers and staff from Geodata to help create a map of the county showing the location of the sites from the other panels. Mr. Keough with Lacey asked if the Commission prefers the city to produce separate panels for the City of Lacey and the Lacey Museum. The Commission decided it would be best to combine both topics onto one panel.

H. Staff Update (Staff)

- Ms. Bowers asked the Commission if they would like to have one email list to include all the different historic groups and contacts to notify of upcoming events and Historic Commission happenings. The Commission liked this idea and would like to move forward with it.
- Ms. Cady shared that 6 Heritage Grants were received and will schedule a meeting with the subcommittee to rank the applications prior to the October meeting.

- The Commission received a Historic Road Sign Application for a historic sign at the intersection of Tilley RD and 101st. The road was originally called Besse RD. Staff sent the application to the subcommittee for their review. A staff report and recommendation will need to be prepared, the decision will need to be made by the entire Historic Commission at a public hearing. The Commission would like to schedule the public hearing for the October 11th meeting.

I. Other Business

There was no other business.

J. Adjournment

Commissioner Lindstrom made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Petrich seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff