

## MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development  
3000 Pacific Ave SE, Room 110, Olympia, WA 98501

**Members & Alternates Present:** Bill Lindstrom, Rob Kirkwood, Charlie Roe, Troy Wilson, David Petrich, Grace Edwards, Ira Kitmacher, Rebecca Sanchez, Charles Gloyd

**Members & Alternates Absent:** Chris Hoffman

**Chairing:** Grace Edwards

**Staff Present:** Dana Bowers, Community Planning & Economic Development

Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

**Guests:** Andrew Deffobis, Community Planning & Economic Development

Jim Keough, City of Lacey

## 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 March 13 2024 agenda. Commissioner Kirkwood seconded. Motion carried.**

- 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioner Kirkwood moved to amend the February 15, 2024 meeting minutes in section C to describe the plaques as a part of the education and outreach program. Commissioner Kirkwood moved to approve the February 15, 2024 minutes as amended. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.**

## **B. Conservation Futures (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 and would not take more than 6 hours. Six applications were received this year.

Commissioner Edwards asked Historic Commissioners to consider volunteering and asked that they email Ms. Cady if they are interested within the next couple of weeks.

## **C. Ordinance Revision (Grace)**

Commissioner Edwards opened the discussing and asked that the Commission first discuss the proposed name change to the Commission and vote on that item individually, then discuss the rest of the proposed revisions and vote on that item separately.

Commissioner Roe suggested combining the words and changing the name to History Heritage Commission to be more encompassing. Several Commissioners spoke and agreed that the main objective is to have a name that is welcoming and inclusive and creates more public interest and curiosity in the Commission. The Commissioners liked the idea of combining history and heritage and several other name suggestions were made. History and Heritage Commission was the preferred name combination.

Commissioner Edwards put to vote 3 options, option 1 to keep the name Historic Commission, option 2 to change the name to Heritage Commission, and option 3 to change the name to the History and Heritage Commission. One Commissioner was in favor of option 1 and 8 Commissioners were in favor of option 3.

**Commissioner Kitmacher moved to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to change the name of the Thurston County Historic Commission to the Thurston County History and Heritage Commission. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Edwards opened discussion on the proposed ordinance revisions excluding the name change. Commissioner Kirkwood asked if the language requiring representatives from City's was removed, Ms. Bowers answered yes.

**Commissioner Kirkwood made a motion to recommend the proposed ordinance revisions to the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **D. Comprehensive Plan Chapter Revision (Grace/Staff)**

Ms. Bowers presented a PowerPoint on the Historic chapter of the Comprehensive Plan detailing areas that are being updated. Commissioner Kirkwood asked to have a QR code on the RAC Kiosk directing the public to the historic site map in the Comp plan. Ms. Bowers said this could be done and the QR code could later direct the public to the Story Map that will be completed with CLG grant funds. Discussions continued and Ms. Bowers shared more sections of the historic chapter of the comp plan that are not being changed for more background information on what the chapter covers.

Ms. Bowers added that the Commissioners survey monkey responses will be in a public facing dashboard for transparency and authenticity. She asked that the Commissioners complete the survey by Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the item to go before the Planning Commission on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Bowers will add definitions of Heritage and Historic to the glossary and ensure they are used correctly in the chapter of the comp plan.

#### **E. Heritage Day 2024 Planning (Subcommittee Chair/Staff)**

Commissioner Lindstrom shared that Sandy Crowell will be a guest speaker at Heritage Day. Commissioner Sanchez gave an update on the subcommittee's meeting that was held over the weekend. They created an agenda, budget and secured two guest speakers. The next steps will be determining how and when to reach out to previous HGP recipients asking for their participation to table the event. As well as a timeline for inviting guests and potentially contacting schools. Additional suggestions were made to present an extra RAC kiosk panel at the event if one is available at that time as well as displaying some kind of historic relic if one can be located from the Washington State Historical Society or other another agency.

Commissioner Edwards reminded the Commissioners to please submit 2024 Heritage Award nominations to Ms. Cady prior to the June meeting. Commissioner Roe has nominated Gerry Alexander to receive the award this year. Mr. Alexander was the president of the Olympia Historical Society and has retired this year. He has written a lot about local history including a section in "Waters, Woods & Prairies". Commissioner Sanchez asked what the qualifying criteria are for nominating someone. Commissioner Edwards answered that this will be the third year that the award has been granted and there isn't a formal nomination process yet. Commissioner Sanchez suggested defining what the award represents and basing the criteria on that.

#### **F. Historic Register Site Visit Update (Staff)**

Commissioner Edwards suggestion postponing the slideshow with photos from site visits until the next meeting.

Ms. Bowers gave an update on the contract with DAHP, the CPED Director has signed the contract and it will be sent to DAHP to be finalized. She is hoping to have the scope of work and a contract completed with the contractor Shanna Stevenson in the next few weeks. The first grant check in is April 24<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Edwards would like to attend.

## **G. Water, Woods, & Prairies Update (Staff)**

Ms. Bowers has not heard back from the City of Lacey regarding the draft MOU. She will follow up with them prior to the next meeting.

## **H. RAC Interpretive Panels (Rob/Staff)**

Commissioner Edwards gave a status update on the RAC kiosk project, the county has invited a total of 9 contractors to bid on the concrete work for the foundation with a deadline to respond by Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>. One of the contractors has responded with a bid of \$17,000.

Commissioner Kirkwood spoke with another contractor that would charge \$20,000. Staff and Commissioner Kirkwood will be sending an invitation to bid for the roof work. Commissioner Kirkwood noted that they had to move the kiosk to the dog barn at the fairgrounds for an upcoming event.

Commissioner Lindstrom shared that 5 panels have been completed and sent to the City for review. Ms. Bowers and Ms. Valcho will be meeting the following week to discuss the panels. Commissioner Lindstrom sent the City of Lacey's panel to the designer, Mr. Murray, he requested that one of the photos be resent in a larger format. Mr. Murray has questions regarding the map panel, it is missing the location marker for the RAC, and Mr. Murray is curious what the Commission would like to put in the text box. Ms. Bowers suggested information on how to use the map and language stating that the map is not a complete list of historic properties. Mr. Murray also requested higher resolution photos for the Ft. Lewis panel. Commissioner Lindstrom requested clarification on the narrative for the map. Commissioner Kirkwood's concept is to use the text box as a legend that can be changed out when panels are updated. The legend could contain locations of the panel sites, the state capitol, and additional historic sites.

Commissioner Kirkwood requested an interim meeting to view an updated print out of the map, staff will schedule this.

## **I. Plaque Program (Staff/Grace)**

Ms. Bowers let the Commission know that staff has been primarily focusing on projects like the kiosk, CLG grant, and Comp plan update and has not had a lot of time to focus on the plaque program. She has emailed the departments legal counsel, Travis Burns regarding guidelines. Mr. Burns did not find it likely that awarding plaques as a part of the education and outreach program would create any conflicts concerning gifting items because it would benefit the public. He recommended granting plaques on a first come first serve bases based on availability and have clear language on when plaques would be available again. The Commission can move forward with creating a process to award plaques.

## **J. Staff Updates (Staff)**

- Ms. Bowers asked the Commissioners to let staff know if they are not receiving the DAHP emails with information on future trainings. If not, staff will forward the emails.

## **K. Other Business**

- There was no other business.

## **L. 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 8:29 p.m.  
*Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff*