

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

Members & Alternates Present: Rob Kirkwood, Charlie Roe, Ken Balsley, Paul Hooper, Grace Edwards, Sandy Crowell

Members & Alternates Absent: Beth Mathews, Elaine Taylor

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests:

CALL TO ORDER

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

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Attendance

Attendance of the Historic Commission was noted by Staff.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the October 14, 2020 agenda. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the September 9, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.

B. Issuing Plaques to Historic Register Properties

Commissioner Kirkwood would like to issue 8” bronze plaques to properties that are placed on the historic register, starting with the Yelm Cemetery that was added last month. Other local jurisdictions like the City of Olympia have done similar and the bronze plaques cost \$500. It is unknown whether the Yelm Cemetery is interested in receiving a plaque. Commissioner Edwards shared concerns as to how to fairly issue plaques retroactively to properties already on the register. She is in favor of the idea but would like to come up with a process for how to issue plaques to existing properties on

the register. Mr. Davis suggested property owners could apply for Heritage Grant funds each year to receive a plaque. Commissioner Kirkwood suggested using the remaining funds from the Historic Commissions budget each year for plaques. Mr. Davis offered to check what is remaining in the 2020 budget with the financial services.

Commissioner Crowell made a motion for staff to contact the Yelm Cemetery to inquire whether they would be interested in receiving a plaque to commemorate their placement on the Historic Register. Commissioner Hooper seconded. Motion carried.

C. Joint Summit Meeting/Birthday Celebration

Commissioner Crowell provided the Historic Commission with a brief update on the subcommittees progress on planning the Joint Summit Meeting. An invitation with a brief survey was sent out in September and 25 RSVP's had been received. The subcommittee is working on finalizing an agenda that will include a brief introduction, hopefully a comment from William Thoms with the Chehalis Tribe, TCHC service announcements including the book, a presentation from Lauren Hoogkamer, and a birthday celebration. The Joint Summit meeting will be October 24th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

D. Book Grant

Mr. Davis informed the Commission that the Board meeting to finalize the history book contract with the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum (OHS/BHM) will be on Tuesday October 20th at 2:00 p.m. Members of OHS/BHM and the Historic Commission will be present and give a brief Powerpoint presentation on the Book. The contract will be ready to be finalized that day or the following. OHS/BHM have been compiling a list of non-profits that will be selling the book, as well as preparing their website for book sales.

E. Tibbets Historic Register Property Special Use Permit Application

The Community Planning and Economic Development department received a permit application for a Special Use Permit for a wedding venue on the Tibbets property which, is on the Historic Register. Staff had just been informed by the property owners that the historic features of the property, the mounting steps and cobblestone well had been removed from the property in 2018. Commissioner Kirkwood suggested continuing working with the applicant to see if they can register the historic barn to the Historic Register. Staff will contact the applicant.

F. Discussion of Section 2.106.040-2.106.070 of TCC

The Commission briefly discussed the above sections of Thurston County Code. Commissioner Kirkwood discussed the need to determine how strict to enforce the code

and the Secretary of Interior Standards. Staff was asked to reach out to Kim Gant with the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation to schedule trainings on placing properties on the Historic Register and maintaining their historic features.

G. Subcommittee Updates

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Joint Meetings with Other Commissions – (Charlie, Sandy Rob, Grace) Discussed earlier in the meeting
- Outreach Committee/Birthday Celebration County Fair (Ken, Grace, Paul) Discussed earlier in the meeting
- Historic Register Verification – (Beth) Contact DAHP about trainings
- Historic Signs - three historic ballrooms, joint marker with tribes – (Ken, Paul, Elaine) Commissioner Balsley received a quote from the city of Lacey to manufacture and place a historic sign for the Evergreen Ballroom for \$3,500. Commissioner Hooper suggested creating a larger sign and placing it at the RAC recreational fields in Lacey. This sign could include historical facts and images of several historically significant landmarks in the local area. Commissioner Balsley will forward the information he received from Lacey to County staff.
- Stairwell signs- (Rob) Rob requested the Tenino Quarry photo from Tenino but has not heard back.
- Heritage Grant Program- Commissioners Balsley, Hooper, Edwards, and Kirkwood were added to this subcommittee to review 2021 Heritage Grant applications.

H. Other Business

- Mr. Davis discussed staff’s outreach to 2020 Heritage Grant Program awardees for progress reports and to prepare to request additional extensions due to Covid delays in project completions.
- Commissioner Kirkwood showed the Commission the plaque he had made for Ruth King to thank her for her many years of service to the Historic Commission. The group would like to try to coordinate a time to present the plaque to her and thank you letters to the 2 other commission members who left this year.

I. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.