

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, November 18, 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, Elaine Taylor, Grace Edwards, Sandy Crowell

Members & Alternates Absent: Beth Mathews, Paul Hooper, Ken Balsley

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 Roe requested to add a discussion on the History Book to the agenda, Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Roe moved to approve the November 18, 2020 agenda as amended. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Roe moved to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

B. History Book Update

Commissioner Roe informed the group that the Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum (OHS) had sold over 80 books since receiving the book contract in late October. Commissioner Crowell shared a spreadsheet from OHS showing book sales and donations to non-profits. The books had also received a lot of publicity through articles in the Olympian, the Chronicle, Coffee with Ken, JOLT, and Talk Thurston.

The Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum has interest in potentially printing more copies of the book. Mr. Davis updated the group that currently there is no money budgeted towards the reprinting of the books, but that county staff has been researching what the cost of reprinting the books would be and the costs of extending copyrights on the few photos that limited the original printing to under 500 books. He also stated that the Historic Commission would have to approve the reprinting as well as the Board of County Commissioners.

C. Improving Zoom Meetings

Some of the Commission members feel that the virtual format of Zoom makes it difficult to have open conversations and it can limit exchanges of thought. Staff suggested using the Zoom “raise hand” feature to ensure it is known when you would like to speak. Unfortunately, due to the Governor’s restrictions the group will continue to meet virtually at least through the end of the year at least.

D. White House Historic Register Applications

In October, Commissioners Kirkwood, Edwards, Roe, Hooper and Ms. Cady made a site visit to the “White House” in Yelm to review the property based on their application for placement on the Historic Register. They discussed the remodel done to the home with the property owner and took photos of the exterior. The subcommittee and staff requested more time to complete the staff report and prepare for the public hearing to designate the White House on the Historic Register.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion hold the public hearing for the White House property at the January 13th, 2021 Historic Commission meeting. Commissioner Kirkwood seconded. Motion carried.

E. Removing Properties from the Historic Register

Commissioner Kirkwood would like to create a process for review and removal of non-conforming properties from the Historic Register. The Building and Development Center had recently received a land use application for a property on the Historic Register. By contacting the property owner, it was discovered that the 2 historic features of the property had been removed several years ago. There are also other properties on the register that have remodeled with modern materials and may need to be reviewed for removal.

Mr. Davis suggested this be a part of the training the Commission scheduled with the Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation in 2021. Commissioner Edwards suggested creating a form to make a uniform review process for each property. Commissioner Kirkwood also suggested purchasing books from the Secretary of Interior Standards. Mr. Davis informed the group that Community Planning and Economic

Development department had recently hired a Senior Planner with experience working with the Clark County Historic Commission.

F. Heritage Grant Program Application Review

Commissioner Edwards gave a brief overview on each project application and an explanation of the subcommittees ranking of each project. The subcommittee would like make a recommendation at the December meeting to allow more time to contact applicants for additional information. Staff will set up Zoom meetings with applicants and request material lists from projects planning to restore/renovate buildings.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to postpone the subcommittees Heritage Grant Program recommendations to the December 9, 2020 Historic Commission meeting. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

G. Ruth King Presentation

Commissioner Kirkwood presented former Commissioner Ruth King with the plaque he had made her and a thank you letter from the Historic Commission at her home. Commissioner King was unable to participate in the virtual meeting.

H. Review Chapter 10, Archeological and Historic Resources

Not many of the members reviewed the chapter prior to the meeting. No discussion followed.

I. Subcommittee Updates

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Joint Meetings with Other Commissions – (Charlie, Sandy Rob, Grace) Charlie shared that members of OHS really enjoyed the meeting and especially the speaker. Rob would like to continue to stay connected with the contacts we have, maybe via email. Sandy was in agreement, the connection has been established and needs to be maintained. Start planning the 2021 Summit meeting.
- Outreach Committee/Birthday Celebration County Fair (Ken, Grace, Paul) Not discussed.
- Historic Register Verification – (Beth) N/A
- Historic Signs - three historic ballrooms, joint marker with tribes – (Ken, Paul, Elaine) The members met with the City of Lacey parks director and they have interest in placing an interpretive panel at the RAC athletic fields. The panel would focus on several historic properties and events of the area.
- Stairwell signs- (Rob) Rob requested the Tenino Quarry photo from Tenino but has not been located. Sandy suggested trying State Archives
- Heritage Grant Program- (Ken, Rob, Paul, Grace) discussed earlier.

J. Other Business

- Commissioner Kirkwood received an estimate from TAGS for a bronze plaque for the Yelm Cemetery that was recently added to the Historic Register. They cost \$1,500 and would take 4-6 weeks to create. There would not be enough time to order a plaque this calendar year.
- Commissioner Roe announced that the Journal wills 13th edition will be available in December.
- Mr. Davis will be following up with Thurston County Financial Services regarding the Historic Commissions 2020 and 2021 budgets.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.