

## MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission  
Wednesday, December 9, 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, Paul Hooper, Ken Balsley, Beth Mathews

**Members & Alternates Absent:**

**Chairing:** Rob Kirkwood

**Staff Present:** Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Jeremy Davis, 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 made a motion to approve the December 9, 2020 agenda, Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.**

#### 3. Approval of Meeting Notes

**Commissioner Roe moved to approve the November 18, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Hooper seconded. Motion carried.**

### B. History Book Update

Commissioner Crowell provided the Commission with the Olympia Historical Society's sales of the History Book. OHS has nearly sold out of all the books in just six weeks! Some of the books were distributed to local historical groups at no cost and over half were sold. Commissioner Crowell would like to discuss reprinting the books.

Mr. Davis presented the process to reprint the books, starting with the Commission agreeing to move forward with the project and to designate a portion of their budget to the printing of the books, this would also have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners, OHS would also have to confirm whether they would like to extend their contract to distribute a second printing of books. Staff and Commissioner Crowell are currently researching what the costs to reprint will be. Staff believes the cost for additional permissions to use copyrighted images will be between \$825 and \$900. Commissioner Crowell has contacted Gorham Publishing and shared initial price points to print on demand through Amazon. Staff will speak with legal to ensure there would be no issues with the County printing the book on demand. The Commission was receptive to printing on demand and felt it has the potential to reach a much larger audience. Commissioner Crowell shared that the publicity of the book is being decreased due to lack of books, but it was agreed to continue to discuss the book with the Rotary Club and create an interest list.

Commissioner Balsley inquired whether the Historic Commission would use funds previously designated for other 2020 projects to fund the reprinting of the book. Mr. Davis stated that he had requested to management that the 2020 budget be rolled over to 2021 due to Covid. This request included the need for funds to continue the proposed Interpretative Panel project at the RAC, Stairwell photo replacements, the Heritage Marker Pilot Project, and the reprinting of the history book.

The Historic Commission voted and agreed to pursue the reprinting of the history book through the County with exploring pricing and bringing the information to the January meeting.

### **C. Journal Update**

Commissioner Roe updated the group that the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Journal will be available the last week of December. The Journal is expected to receive \$10,000 in 2021 for printing.

### **D. Plaque Updates**

Commissioner Kirkwood has continued to price bronze plaques to mark properties as they are placed on the Historic Register. He believes they will be around \$600-\$700 a piece and will be 12” in size. Commissioner Kirkwood will send an updated estimate to staff when available. The Yelm Cemetery was added to the Historic Register this year and will be awarded the first plaque.

### **E. Heritage Grant Program Application Review**

Commissioner Edwards summarized the nine Heritage Grant applications that were received for 2021. The subcommittees ranking of the applications are: The Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum, The City of Lacey, Gate Community Club, South Thurston County Historical Society, City of Tenino, Olympia Arts &

Heritage Alliance, Olympia Tumwater Foundation, The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice, and Tenino VFW Post 5758. The Subcommittee had met via Zoom with representatives from the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice to discuss more details of their proposed project. They also received additional materials lists from projects requesting funds for remodels/rehabilitation projects.

A few Commission members inquired with staff about how much oversight the Commission has once a project has been awarded funds. They would like the Subcommittee to have the ability to check in with grantees throughout the year for project updates to ensure funds are being used properly for historic preservation; for example, that building materials meet the Secretary of Interiors Standards. Staff will speak with the legal department to find how much can be included in each individual contract.

**Commissioner Edwards made a motion to recommend the approval of the top six ranked applications and approval of the three lowest ranked applications if the Historic Commission officially receives the proposed \$20,000 of additional funds for Heritage Preservation. Commissioner Crowell called the vote. Commissioners Balsley and Roe abstained. The rest of the members were in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **F. Group wrap up of 2020 and get ready for 2021**

Commissioner Kirkwood sent a letter to the Historic Commission prior to the meeting celebrating the Commission's successes over the course of 2020 despite the pandemic. It also requested the Commission members to begin thinking individually about what projects they would like to accomplish in 2021. The Commission members were appreciative of the letter. The projects will be discussed in the January 2021 meeting when the work program and budget will be decided. Mr. Davis requested Commissioner Kirkwood submit his letter to the Board of County Commissioners to share the Historic Commissions accomplishment, the letter will be sent once the budget is finalized.

#### **G. Historic Register Brochure Draft**

Commissioner Crowell and Ms. Cady shared the draft brochure for the Historic Register they had created. The intent of the brochure is to inform the public of the benefits of placement on the register and the criteria and processes to be added. Commission members suggested adding the brochure to the website.

#### **H. Subcommittee Updates**

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Joint Meetings with Other Commissions – (Charlie, Sandy Rob, Grace)
- Outreach Committee/Birthday Celebration County Fair (Ken, Grace, Paul) Not discussed.
- Historic Interpretive Panels at the RAC- (Ken, Paul, Elaine, Rob) Rob and Ken have spoken with Jennifer Burbidge with Lacey Parks and discussed placing an

interpretive panel at the RAC. The panel could include information on the Evergreen Ballroom History Nisqually Tribal History, Lacey History Museum, Medicine Creek Treaty, Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, Regional Map, State Capitol, Ostrom's Mushroom Farm, and Fort Lewis. Staff sent the letter to Jen.

- Stairwell signs- (Rob) no updates
- Heritage Grant Program- (Ken, Rob, Paul, Grace) discussed earlier.

**I. Staff Updates**

Commissioner Kirkwood requested a meeting with staff and potentially a few Historic Commissioner to discuss the 2021 budget once everything has been finalized. Staff will set this up once the budget has been finalized and schedule a meeting with Financial Services in preparation.

**J. Other Business**

**K. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

*Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.*