

## MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development  
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

**Members & Alternates Present:** Sandy Crowell, Rob Kirkwood, Charlie Roe, Daniel Graves, Ken Balsley, Chris Colton, Beth Mathews, Paul Hooper, Ruth King, Grace Edwards

**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 Balsley moved to approve the February 12, 2020 agenda. Commissioner Colton seconded. Motion carried.

##### 3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Kirkwood recommended staff amend the January 08, 2020 minutes, the Commission agreed. Commissioner Crowell moved to approve the January 8, 2020 minutes as amended. Commissioner Colton seconded. Motion carried. Staff has amended the meeting minutes as directed.

#### B. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Kirkwood welcomed the newest member, Commissioner Grace Edwards, to the Historic Commission. Members and staff gave brief introductions of themselves to Commissioner Edwards.

**C. STRONG HOUSE APPLICATION REVIEW**

Commissioner Kirkwood updated the Commission that he formed a sub-committee of himself and Commissioners Colton and Balsley to review the Strong House application and look at the building. They determined the additional building being applied for would have no impact to the historic status of the property and recommend approval.

**Commissioner Balsley made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Colton seconded. Motion carried.**

**D. HISTORIC COMMISSION BINDERS**

Staff had been directed by Commissioner Kirkwood to create informational binders for each Commission member that describe the roles of the Historic Commission, as well as rules and procedures.

Commissioner Kirkwood suggested setting aside 10 minutes each meeting to discuss a specific set of duties to keep the Commission up to speed. He will send each month's topic to staff prior to the meeting to be forwarded to the rest of the Commission.

**E. CLG GRANT FUNDING FOR A BASIC INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

Commissioner Mathews informed the Commission that midcentury properties for Thurston County have not been inventoried because the last survey was done in 1985. Initially, Commissioner Mathews was interested in applying for a CLG grant to hire an expert to do an historical property inventory survey of Thurston County. She now believes it makes more sense to step back and hire an expert to update the Thurston County historic register. Staff informed the Commission that a specific project and cost estimate would need to be brought to the March 11, 2020 meeting for the County to have enough time to process and authorize the grant application before the April 24<sup>th</sup> due date. Mr. Davis offered to assist with the grant process and providing staff hours information.

**Commissioner Balsley made a motion to create a sub-committee to write a grant. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Commissioner Balsley called for question. Motion carried. The Subcommittee will be Commissioners Mathews, Colton and Graves.**

**F. HISTORIC JOURNAL**

Commissioners Kirkwood and Roe attended the Historic Journal meeting. Commissioner Roe informed the group of a potential proposal to request Thurston County fund the entire printing costs.

## **G. STAFF UPDATES**

Mr. Davis updated the Commission that the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners decided to recommend the awarding of the book grant to the Olympia Historical Society. The Olympia Historical Society will be distributing the book to all local groups who would like to sell the books, but it will not be a part of the contract. County staff will coordinate with the Commission members to attend the March board meeting.

## **H. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Joint Meetings with Other Commissions – (Charlie, Sandy Rob, Beth) The subcommittee has made great progress in organizing the event and shared their outline with the group. The budget may need to be raised.
- Outreach Committee/Birthday Celebration County Fair (Ruth, Ken, Grace, Paul) Commissioner King attended the throwback meeting at the Fair Grounds and they are deciding the theme, it may be women’s suffrage. Commissioners Edwards and Hooper have been added to the committee. Commissioners Crowell and Kirkwood asked to be removed from the committee.
- Historic Register Verification – (Chris, Beth) Discussed earlier in the meeting. The Commission will apply for a grant to update the register.
- Historic Signs - three historic ballrooms, joint marker with tribes – (Sandy, Ken, Daniel) Commissioner Graves has contacted the property owners where the Evergreen Ballroom was but have not heard back. Commissioner Crowell offered to help with the signage and Commissioner Kirkwood offered to help with materials.
- CLG Grant- (Beth, Chris, Dan) Discussed earlier in the meeting.

## **I. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Balsley informed the group that there will be a dedication of the Lacey Train Depot shortly, he will send staff information to forward to the group when the time comes.

## **J. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

*Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.*