

## MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021  
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, Beth Mathews

**Members & Alternates Absent:** Ken Balsley

**Chairing:** Rob Kirkwood

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

**Guests:** Bill Lindstrom, Sharon Brown-Kabanuck, Joann Brown

### 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 Crowell made a motion to approve the January 13, 2021 agenda, Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.**

##### 3. Approval of Meeting Notes

**Commissioner Crowell moved to approve the December 9, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.**

#### B. The White House Historic Register Public Hearing

The Historic Commission was joined by the applicants for the “White House”, Sharon Brown-Kabanuck and Joann Brown. Sharon shared how her family owned the nearly identical home next door and had lived there since childhood. She and Joann purchased the “White House” in the 1990’s as a place to stay while taking care of their parents next door. It was primarily used as a rental home after. The applicants began repairs because

some parts were deteriorating due to renters. The chimneys were decaying and crumbling and were removed, at this time the oil furnace was removed. The asbestos siding, which was added sometime in the 1950's at the same time the foundation was installed, was removed for safety reasons when the roof was replaced. At this point it was discovered that the original cedar siding beneath was fully intact with no rotting. The applicants chose to cover with hardi siding with a similar appearance to the original cedar siding. Having the cedar refurbished would be significantly more expensive than covering. Vinyl windows were put in place of the original single pane windows, but the original windowsills remained in place.

Commissioner Crowell asked the applicants what is their interest for applying for placement to the Historic Register. Sharon and Joann shared that they share an interest in history and their family has deep ties to the City of Yelm, they would feel honored to be a part of the Thurston County Historic Register. They shared with the group how their Great-Grandfather Lee Hammersmith had a mill in Yelm long ago and their parents were involved with the Yelm Historic Society. Sharon herself has been involved in history throughout Yelm and Washington State. She has seen other similar homes in Western Washington on Historic Registers, but not maintained. One of their Uncle's is also a former mayor of Yelm, and their Grandparents moved to Yelm in 1915 and their home is on the Yelm Historic Register.

The Historic Commission enjoyed the applicants presentation and appreciate all of the work they have put into maintaining the home. Commissioner Kirkwood informed the applicants that the vinyl windows are not in character of the time, though the front porch is a new addition but is in character with the original time period. Commissioner Kirkwood requested that the Historic Commission review current homes on the Historic Register and allow more time for review. Also, that the applicants provide more information on their family's historical connections to the County as well as the previous owners of the home. The public hearing will continue at the February meeting to gather more information.

**Commissioner Roe made a motion to close the hearing and be continued at the February 10, 2021 Historic Commission meeting. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.**

### **C. 2021 Budget and Work Plan**

Commissioner Kirkwood had sent a draft proposal to the Historic Commission prior to the meeting. It outlined the Commissions goals and reorganized the subcommittees as well as suggested promoting the Historic Commission to encourage new members. Commissioner Kirkwood has requested Commissioners Edwards and Crowell be co-chairs of the Outreach subcommittee, this subcommittee would over see the County Fair, September Summit Meeting, Book reprinting, and the Historic Journal. The proposal also included adding a Historic Resources subcommittee, this would include the promotion of 2022 grants, follow up of 2021 grants, review of 2022 applications, coordination of DAHP training, building permit reviews, and section 106 cultural resources reviews. Lastly, Commissioner Hooper was asked to co-chair the Interpretive subcommittee, which would oversee the Interpretive Panels project and Stairwell pictures.

The Commissioners agreed that recruiting new members is a priority, especially with the proposed workload. It is important encourage new membership as well as prioritize projects based on the current number of Historic Commission members.

Mr. Davis shared the 5-year budget plan with the Commission showing how much funds are available for 2021 and projected for 2022. There are additional funds available to the Commission, they could potentially request more for heritage preservation projects for 2022.

Commissioner Edwards requested to see a list of members on each subcommittee. Commissioner Kirkwood will send out a list with proposed budgets for each subcommittee. Mr. Davis asked the Chair to also submit a proposed roll over budget for the 2020 community project budget.

**Commissioner Roe made a motion to approve the proposed subcommittee structure change with Cultural Resources included. Commissioner Crowell Seconded. Motion Carried.**

#### **D. History Book Reprint Update**

Commissioner Crowell discussed how successful the sales and distribution of the book had been and the need to reprint. Gorham publishing is an option for printing, or printing on demand with a company such as Amazon. The options would be to reprint the book as is and focus on a second addition later or make revisions or an addendum to the book prior to reprinting. The Olympia Historical Society would need to be contacted to see if they had any interest in distributing the books again, Commissioner Roe said he would ask at the next OHS meeting. If they did not have an interest the City of Lacey may want to distribute as they had applied to do so previously. Mr. Davis explained that the Historic Commission would need to vote as to whether the group wants to move forward with a reprinting, then request the Board of County Commissioners to grant the reprints to OHS (if they would like the grant), and then funds could be allocated to the reprinting.

**Commissioner Roe made a motion to move forward with exploring the options for reprinting the book, “Water, Woods, and Prairies.” Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **E. The Lucas Harding Residence Historic Register Application**

Commissioner Kirkwood gave a brief description of the Lucas Harding Residence application for placement on the Historic Register. The subcommittee will do a site visit and plan to set a public hearing for the April 14, 2021 meeting.

**F. Cozy Valley RD Historic Sign Application**

Commissioner Kirkwood gave a brief update on the Cozy Valley RD historic road sign application received. This would need a review by the subcommittee as well and the hearing will be scheduled for the April 14, 2021 meeting.

**G. Heritage Grant Program Update**

Mr. Davis and Ms. Cady will be presenting the Historic Commissions 2021 Heritage Grant Program recommendations on January 14, 2021 at 9:30. They will also be requesting project extensions to December 2021 for five 2020 grant recipients and two 2019 grant recipients.

**H. Election of Officers**

In 2020 Commissioner Kirkwood was elected Chair of the Historic Commission for 2 years and Commissioner Mathews as the Vice-Chair. Both accepted to continue their roles for 2021.

**Commissioner Roe made a motion that Commissioner Kirkwood remain Chair for 2021 and Commissioner Mathews remain Co-Chair. Commission Crowell seconded. Motion carried.**

**I. Washington Maritime Heritage Area**

Commissioner Kirkwood had asked staff to send the Commission information on the Maritime Heritage Area. Commissioner Taylor shared that they are now accepting comments and have a free virtual event. Staff forwarded the invitation to each Commissioner member.

**J. Subcommittee Updates**

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Joint Meetings with Other Commissions – (Charlie, Sandy Rob, Grace) N/A
- Outreach Committee/Birthday Celebration County Fair (Ken, Grace, Paul) Not discussed.
- Historic Interpretive Panels at the RAC- (Ken, Paul, Elaine, Rob) Rob and Ken prepared a letter that staff sent to Lacey Parks
- Stairwell signs- (Rob) Rob shared the images he plans to use, next step is approval from BoCC and County Manager.
- Heritage Grant Program- (Ken, Rob, Paul, Grace) discussed earlier.

**K. Staff Updates**

There were no staff updates, everything was covered earlier in the meeting.

**L. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**M. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

*Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.*