

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

Members & Alternates Present: Rob Kirkwood, Beth Mathews, Grace Edwards, Bill Lindstrom, Charlie Roe, Sandy Crowell, Ken Balsley, Tamara Hayes

Members & Alternates Absent: 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 Kirkwood requested adding 2 items to the agenda, Northwest Playwrights Alliance interview and providing free history books to new members. Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the October 13, 2021 agenda as amended. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the meeting notes. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

B. Heritage Days

Commissioner Kirkwood shared details of the success of Heritage Day. Staff informed the Commission that the video is available on the Historic Commission website along with the PowerPoint presentation.

C. Joint Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Membership

Staff will discuss membership with the Thurston County Budget Office.

D. Heritage Grant Program Recommendation

Five complete applications were received timely and a sixth was received 5 days late. The first 5 applications were: City of Lacey for their Lacey Leader Photo Preservation Project, City of Tenino for their Tenino Depot Restoration Project, Olympia Heritage Commission's Olympia's Indie Music History, Olympia Historic Society/Bigelow House Museum's Bigelow House Storm Window Project and South Thurston County Historical Societies Tenino Depot Museum Collection Stewardship Project. The final complete application received 5 days late was the Rochester Citizens Group Swede Hall Dance Floor Refinished. The subcommittee recommended approval of all 6 applications because the budget allowed for up to 8 projects to receive full funding.

Commissioner Balsley made a motion to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve funding for all 6 Heritage Grant applications that were received. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

E. History Book Report and books for new members

Commissioner Crowell gave an overview of the status of the second printing of the History Book. The final edits have been approved and Gorham has begun printing which should be ready in approximately 5 weeks. Staff plans to take the amended contract with the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum (OHS/BHM) to the Board of County Commissioners in early November.

Commissioner Crowell suggested that the newest members of the Historic Commission receive a copy of the history book to provide them with a history of Thurston County. This will have to be further discussed with the OHS/BHM.

Commissioner Balsley made a motion that new members will receive a history book and handbook. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

F. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Balsley has submitted an initial draft about the Evergreen Ballroom to the City of Lacey, he is still working on the second draft. Commissioner Crowell will be writing a panel for the Nisqually Indian Tribe with Annette Bullchild of the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Commissioner Kirkwood dropped off a letter to the Billy Frank Jr refuge and is awaiting a response. He has been unable to contact anyone from Ostroms farm. The subcommittee will continue discussions about the writing and content of the panels with the City of Lacey. Staff will follow up whether a panel design assistant who is not on the MRSC can be contracted.

G. Plaques

Staff will follow up with legal on the new application.

H. Northwest Playwrights Alliance

Staff informed the Commission of the 2020 Heritage Grant recipient, Northwest Playwrights Alliance, request to interview a Historic Commission member. They are interested in discussing local historic events that were happening during the time that their play takes place between 1918-20. Commissioner Crowell agreed to do the interview on November 7th.

I. Staff Updates

There were no staff updates.

J. Other Business

There was no other business.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.
Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.