

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, November 10, 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, Tamara Hayes, Elaine Taylor

Members & Alternates Absent: Ken Balsley

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 Edwards moved to approve the November 10, 2021 agenda.
Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Crowell moved to approve the October 13, 2021 meeting notes.
Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

B. History Book Reprint

Staff gave an update that the hardbound books are nearly finished printing and have scheduled a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners to approve the amended

contract on November 23, 2021. The contract will be signed by the Director of CPED and legal and be ready for signature from OHS/BHM. The books will be ready for pick up at this time as well.

Commissioner Crowell and Greg Griffith from the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum will be meeting with the owners of Traditions Café in downtown Olympia. They would like to hold a “meet the authors” event on December 4th for a book signing and opportunity for Q&A. Staff will speak with the budget office about using Historic Commission funds for the \$75 rental fee. Discussions continued.

C. Joint Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Membership

Staff will discuss membership with the Thurston County Budget Office.

D. RAC Interpretive Panel Update

Jim Keogh from the Lacey Historic Commission participated in the discussion and let the group know that he will be replacing Seth Huff as the liaison for the sign project and has volunteered to help write the panels. Commissioner Kirkwood updated the commission on his progress, he has submitted the plans for structural Engineering proposal and received positive feedback about the Billy Frank Jr/Nisqually panel. Mr. Davis informed the Commission that they will need to present the kiosk proposal to the BoCC prior to funding the project. The subcommittee will continue to email and discuss narrative lengths and panel designs prior to the next meeting. All Historic Commission members are welcome to help with writing the panels.

E. Plaques

Commissioner Kirkwood reviewed the application prepared by Mr. Davis and returned it with his comments. Mr. Davis will review the comments prior to the next meeting. The plaque project was approved for \$5000 for 2022, but the Board will need to be briefed prior to beginning the project. Staff will forward the Historic Commission an example of a previous historic marker project.

F. Staff Updates

Mr. Davis shared that the BoCC has approved the Historic Commissions proposed 2022 budget. This includes funding for the history book printing, plaque project, RAC Interpretive Panels, Historic Journal, Heritage Grant Program, and other projects.

Ms. Cady shared that the County Public Information Officer has been posting the Historic Commissions vacancies on the County’s social media pages and will be focusing on recruiting members in 2022. Historic Commission members are invited to submit short video testimonials about what the Historic Commission does, and why they joined. The group discussed ways to advertise vacancies and recruit diverse members.

G. Other Business

Commissioner Crowell was interviewed by the Northwest Playwrights Alliance, who received a 2020 Heritage Grant for the Hotel Olympia's 100th Birthday Bash play. The play has been postponed due to Covid, but they have broadcasted the show on the radio and are now creating a video documentary.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.