

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, December 8, 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, Ken Balsley

Members & Alternates Absent:

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Jeremy Davis, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Michelle Thompson, Jim Keogh

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 moved to approve the December 8, 2021 agenda. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the November 10, 2021 meeting notes. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

B. History Book Rollout/Celebration

Commissioner Crowell informed the Commission that the Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum have picked up all the books that have been printed so far.

The Tribes have picked up their books as well as the owners of the Gates Community School, who have invited the members to visit the school to see some of the work that has been done with Heritage Grant funds.

The subcommittee is planning a promotional book signing event with 4 of authors and editors of the book on January 15, 2021, tentatively scheduled at the Olympia Center. The subcommittee will need to submit a budget to the County as soon as possible for approval of refreshments from the County Manager. The Olympia Center rental fee is \$300 with a \$150 deposit. Staff will check with the budget office regarding the timing of billing of Historic Preservation funds in 2021 and 2022 for the deposit and event in January.

Discussions continued about the 2022 book printing and gifting books to Commission members. The books have all been granted to OHS and they will need to approve the gifting of any books.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to spend \$600 on the historic book promotion on January 15, 2021. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

C. Special Tax Valuation Training

The County's Certified Local Government Coordinator, Michelle Thompson, presented an educational PowerPoint training on Special Tax Valuation. Ms. Thompson outlined the roles of the Applicant, Assessor, and Local Review Board. She also stressed the importance of thoroughly documenting the historic features of a property when it is placed on the Historic Register. This helps when doing design reviews and special tax valuation reviews.

D. Lucas Harding Special Tax Valuation Report

The property owner of the Lucas Harding Residence submitted a Special Tax Valuation application on November 10, 2021. Staff worked with the CLG coordinator, Assessor's Office, and Applicant. Because of the short timeline staff was not able to get the Committee/Staff Report to the Commission members until the morning of the meeting. The group discussed the application and what the next process would be. Several members requested to postpone making any decision to allow more time to review the report, gain a better understanding of the next steps, familiarize themselves with the Special Valuation Agreement between the Commission and Applicant, and meet with the Applicant to review the Agreement. They would also like to ensure that the Assessor has reviewed the work invoices and confirm that the rehabilitation costs were 25% of the property's value. Most of the Commission would like to make a decision on this application before the end of the year. Staff will speak with legal about the Special Valuation Agreement and timeline, if this can be sorted by the end of the year the Commission agreed to schedule a special meeting with a minimum of Five Commission members to ensure a quorum. Staff and the subcommittee will also work with the applicant and request additional photos of the exterior and a summary of the work done.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to postpone the decision until next year's first meeting, UNLESS staff can confirm that the costs of the rehabilitation are 25% of the value of the home and have the Special Valuation Agreement reviewed by the subcommittee and applicant. If these things can be done the Historic Commission will hold a special session to decide the application. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Motion carried. Call to vote, six in favor.

E. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Lindstrom gave a brief update on his progress with the project. He requested that the subcommittee hold a meeting to prioritize the designing of the panels, because the writing cannot be done until a design is created. The subcommittee agreed to arrange a meeting for January 6, 2021.

Commissioner Kirkwood is talking to a second structural engineer for the work. He also suggested changing the location to allow for ADA parking.

F. Renaming of Squaw Point

Commissioner Kirkwood was contacted by Shanna Stevenson requesting that the Historic Commission assists the Squaxin Island Tribe with removing the derogatory name "Squaw Point" from maps. They will be going to the Board of Geographic Names to request the change to a Loushootseed name.

G. Joint Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Membership

Staff has not made any progress on this request.

H. Plaques

Staff has not made any progress on this request.

I. Staff updates

- The 2022 budget will be confirmed at the end of the year, it is likely that all the Historic Commission requests will be officially approved.
- The dedication of the Howard Point Marker is tentatively scheduled for February 26, 2022 and members of the Historic Commission and BoCC are invited to attend.

J. Other Business

- Commissioner Kirkwood knows of a property owner in Grand Mound wanting to apply for placement to the Historic Register.
- Commissioner Balsley's guests on his radio show Coffee with Ken were Gerry Alexander and Greg Griffiths.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.