

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, April 14, 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, Sandy Crowell, Ken Balsley, Beth Mathews, Bill Lindstrom

Members & Alternates Absent: Grace Edwards

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Tamara Hayes

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 April 14, 2021 agenda, Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

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

4. Introductions

The Commission welcomed the newest member, Commissioner Bill Lindstrom, and Commission applicant, Tamara Hayes. Introductions followed.

B. Waters, Woods, and Prairies Reprint

Commissioner Crowell gave a brief update on the status of the second printing of Waters, Woods, and Prairies. In the March meeting the Commission voted to reprint the book

through Gorham Publishing. Commissioner Roe stated that the Olympia Historical Society will be discussing the book grant at their upcoming meeting in April. Commissioners Taylor and Crowell will contact OHS to offer to attend the meeting. Staff recommended that the Commission submit a proposal in writing to the Board of County Commissioners for 500 softbound books, 250 hardbound, and a layout for an ebook at the total price of \$17,646.79 plus \$838 for rights to reproduce the photographs.

Ms. Hayes offered to contact the Capitol Gift Shop about selling the history book.

Commissioner Roe made a motion to submit a written proposal to the Board of County Commissioners requesting to use funds from the HB 1386 fund to reprint Water, Woods, and Prairies through Gorham publishing, with a Mixture of 500 SB, 250 HB. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. The vote was called. All in favor Motion carried.

C. RAC Interpretive Panels

Commissioner Balsley, Kirkwood, Edwards, and Ms. Cady attended the Lacey Historical Commissions March meeting to discuss the proposal to place interpretive panels at the RAC. The Lacey Historical Commission showed a great interest in the project, but were also concerned that they would not be able to add it to their 2021 work plan because it had already been approved. Commissioner Balsley has since reached out to the Mayor of Lacey and the City Manager to promote the project. He is also speaking with a reporter who is doing an article on the Evergreen Ballroom for Thurston Talk. Commissioner Kirkwood received a project checklist from the City as well. Commissioner Lindstrom agreed to be on the subcommittee.

D. Recruiting Commission Members

The Historic Commission is working to recruit diverse members to fill the four vacancies on the Commission. Commissioner Kirkwood prepared a recruitment letter that staff sent to the Heritage Grant recipients since 2010. He also shared that he is drafting a letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting them to recruit members. Commissioner Lindstrom suggested contacting Evergreen State College to recruit diverse members. Commissioner Taylor and Ms. Cady will work on gathering contacts to local colleges for recruitment. Commissioner Balsley asked why the County PR doesn't advertise these vacancies, staff will follow up.

E. September/October Meeting

Commissioner Crowell gave a brief background on the Joint Summit meeting that was held via Zoom last October. The Commission is hoping to host an in person Joint Meeting with local history groups and the public in September or October of 2021 with a maritime theme. Ms. Hayes shared that she was an event director at the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society and has a lot of experience hosting similar events. She offered to join the subcommittee once she is officially appointed to the Historic Commission. Conversations continued with some members expressing concerns whether

the event could be held in person given the pandemic, Zoom and outdoor options should be explored.

F. DAHP Grant Application

Staff informed the group that there is not enough time to get internal approval for the grant application. Staff had updated the 2021 grant application and routed to two members for review of the application, no response was received, and the project did not move forward. The Commission expressed that they would like to submit the application if at all possible. The Historic Register is in great need of being updated and the Commission does not have the time or means to do so. Staff agreed to submit the draft to the Director of CPED.

Commissioner Balsley made a motion to direct staff to submit the 2022 CLG grant application to the Director of CPED for approval. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. The vote was called, all in favor with the exception of Commissioner Roe. Motion carried.

G. Stairwell Pictures

Commissioner Kirkwood is waiting for a response from Charlene Krisp with the Squaxin Tribe for a native fishing photo to replace one in the Courthouse stairwell. Commissioner Crowell suggested contacting the Washington State Archives for photos. Ms. Hayes has a contact at the State Archives whom she will reach out to.

H. Plaques

Thurston County legal is reviewing the request to issue bronze plaques to properties on the Historic Register. Staff is researching how other jurisdictions charge for similar plaques.

I. Subcommittee Updates

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Outreach Committee- discussed earlier
- Historic Resources- discussed earlier
- Interpretive- discussed earlier

J. Staff Updates

Staff informed the Commission that the Lucas Harding Residence hearing for placement on the Historic Register has been postponed to the May 12th meeting.

Staff received a request for a headstone for an interment at the Mima Praire Cemetery which is owned by Thurston County parks. The Commission will table this item for the time being.

K. Other Business

- Commissioner Kirkwood will most likely not attend the May meeting.
- Commissioner Lindstrom informed the Commission of the tour he will be guiding on April 16th for the 108th anniversary of the killing of John Tornow, the Wild Man of the Wynochee.
- Next year marks the 170th anniversary of Thurston County

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.
Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.