

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, May 12, 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, Grace Edwards, Sandy Crowell, Ken Balsley, Beth Mathews, Bill Lindstrom

Members & Alternates Absent: Elaine Taylor

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

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

Guests: Amy Evans, James Harding, Andrew Deffobis

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 moved to amend the agenda to retitle G. to the September/October Summit. Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the amended May 15, 2021 agenda, Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried. Staff updated the agenda.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Lindstrom corrected a spelling error in the minutes. Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the meeting notes as amended. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried. Staff corrected the error.

B. Lucas Harding Residence Public Hearing

The public hearing was opened at approximately 6:36. Staff gave a brief overview of the property and its historic attributes and recommended that the Lucas Harding Residence be

placed on the Thurston County Historic Register, as it meets at least 4 criteria. The homeowners, Amy Evans, and James Harding provided answers to questions the Historic Commission had and gave a brief description of the home. Members of the public were in attendance, including Katie Schmidt Hurley, who shared her support of the placement of the home in the Zoom chat function. Susan Schmidt Wilson testified in support of the application and shared stories of growing up in the home and the joys of owning a historic house.

Several Commission members gave thanks to the applicants for their efforts renovating the home while restoring and maintaining the historic feel and features.

Commissioner Balsley moved to accept staff's recommendation to place the Lucas Harding Property on the Thurston County Historic Register. Commissioner Edwards seconded. The vote was called, all were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Conservation Futures Ranking Committee

Andrew Deffobis, with Thurston County Community Planning and Economic Development presented an overview of the Conservation Futures Ranking Committee and the responsibilities of the Committee. He asked for two volunteers from the Historic Commission, one to be on the committee, and the other as an alternate. Commissioners Edwards and Lindstrom volunteered.

Commissioner Balsley made a motion to nominate Commissioner Edwards as the Committee member, and Commissioner Lindstrom as the alternate. Commissioner Kirkwood seconded. Motion carried.

D. Waters, Woods, & Prairies

Commissioner Crowell shared the exciting news that the history book will be receiving a City of Olympia Preservation Award from the Olympia City Council on May 20th. Commissioner Crowell, Commissioner Kirkwood, and Shirley Stirling will be attending the Zoom ceremony to accept the award. She also informed the group that the Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum would like to extend the book contract to distribute the second printing of the book. Staff had met with OHS/BHM earlier in the week to discuss the contract amendments. The Board of County Commissioners will need to approve the contract amendments as well as the publisher. Commissioner Crowell added that she would like the book authors to be able to purchase the books at a discounted price. The diversity editorial to be printed in the front of the book to welcome all histories of Thurston County has been completed.

E. RAC Interpretive Panels

Commissioners Kirkwood, Balsley, Lindstrom and Mr. Davis met several City of Lacey staff members at the Regional Athletic Complex to discuss the interpretive signs and potential locations. The top three locations are by the baseball field entrance, near the basketball courts, or at the soccer fields. The County and City will continue discussions

about each parties role in the joint project throughout the development and maintenance of the panels. The subcommittee would like to construct a 6-sided kiosk like the one located at the Port. They would like the panels to be interchangeable to continuously update the stories shared. Commissioner Kirkwood has a contact at the Port who is happy to share the plans. Staff will take the proposal to the Board of County Commissioner once the design and budget quote are dialed in. The Commission also intends to seek out donations.

F. Recruiting Commission Members

The County Public Information Officer will be sharing the Historic Commission’s vacancies at Board Briefings, on County social media and newsletters, and has offered to do a Q&A session with the Commission. Commissioner Taylor has been compiling a list of contacts at local colleges to recruit diverse members.

G. September/October Summit

Commissioner Kirkwood sent emails to spark interest and will continue to. The Commission discussed the progress made on the 2021 summit and the need to advertise to ensure a wide audience is reached. They discussed potentially holding one meeting a year off site, reaching a larger audience than just local governments, and contacting HGP grant recipients to attend and give updates on their projects.

H. DAHP Grant Application

Staff informed the Commission that they were unable to submit the grant application because there was not enough time for the budget review process, or for the County Manager’s review. Also, the 2021 CLG grant denial expressed the Commissions need for trainings to better understand the local register and requirements. Staff will work on scheduling trainings with our CLG coordinator. Commissioner Mathews suggested having one of the CLG training meetings as a part of the Thurston County Historic Commission Annual Summit.

I. Stairwell Pictures

Staff suggested setting this project aside due to the fact that the Community Planning and Economic Development department will be moving to a new building. The Commission agreed.

J. Plaques

Staff is waiting for a response from the legal department.

K. Subcommittee Updates

The Commission discussed the following projects:

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

L. Staff Updates

There were no staff updates.

M. Other Business

- Commissioner Mathews shared that she attended an Olympia Heritage meeting where they discussed the Howard Family Panel, which was partially funded by Heritage Grant funds, as well as the success of the book. She would like to attend one of their meetings once a year, other Commissioners would like to as well.
- Commissioner Kirkwood and Mathews discussed a recent letter from the Army Corps of Engineers requesting comments from the Historic Commission regarding a permit application. Commissioner Kirkwood asked staff to forward the letter and response to the rest of the Commission.
- Commissioner Crowell shared that a former Historic Commissioner, Ed Swan, has recently passed. Staff will send a card to the family on behalf of the Commission.

N. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.