

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
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:

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 February 9, 2022 agenda.

Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Balsley moved to correct the spelling of Commissioner Roe's name in the minutes. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

B. Election of Vice-Chair

Commissioner Crowell nominated Commissioner Edwards for the position of Vice Chair. Called to vote, all were in favor.

C. Review of Rules and Procedures

Staff met with the subcommittee and made revisions to the Rules of Procedure per their recommendations. The main changes were limiting the term of the Chair to 2 years and promoting the Vice-Chair to Chair after their term is over. The intent is to encourage new leadership and growth for the Historic Commission. It also altered the language regarding absences, adding a section on Subcommittees, Conflicts of Interests, and Media Requirements to be more uniformed with County policies and other Board and Commission rules.

Discussions continued. Staff will make the requested edits by the Commission and send them via email prior to the next meeting. The Commission will vote on the changes at the March meeting.

D. 2022 Budget and Work Plan

Mr. Davis briefed the Commission on the the approved budget. Staff and the Chair will need to present the RAC Interpretive Panel project to the Board of County Commissioners with the Heritage Grant application briefing and request an additional \$6000 for the project at the mid-year budget amendments. The Historic Commission was approved for \$29,000 for Heritage Grants, \$10,000 for the Thurston Journal, \$27,000 for the RAC project, and \$8,000 would roll over from 2021 for the next printing of the history book.

The Historic Commission discussed what projects to fund with the remaining \$4000. They agreed to reserve \$2000 for the 2022 Heritage Day, \$500 to the County Fair and birthday celebration, \$500 to purchase a Historic Register Plaque for the Yelm Cemetery, and \$500 for other projects.

Commissioner Balsley made a motion to accept the budget. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. motion carried.

E. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner's Lindstrom and Kirkwood gave updates on the progress made. The project site has been relocated to a more accessible location, that will also make installation easier. Commissioner Kirkwood will provide a map with the new site location. The City of Lacey will be able to issue an over the counter permit with no additional fees. The subcommittee is currently doing research to find photos and maps to use.

F. Lucas Harding Special Tax Valuation Update

The subcommittee and staff met with the applicants via Zoom and discussed the expenditures and Special Tax Valuation Agreement. Staff will prepare a staff report to be reviewed by the Historic Commission prior to making a decision on the application within the next few months.

G. Recruitment and Reviews of Vacancies

Commissioner Edwards presented a wonderful PowerPoint presentation breaking down the Qualifications for Historic Commission members. The Commission discussed the requirement stating, “There shall be one member from each city and town which is entered into an agreement to have the historic commission perform similar duties within the city or town”. Staff will research whether any agreements with local City’s or Town’s exist. The Commission members agreed that it would be beneficial to reach out to the leaders of local jurisdictions and inquire if they know of anyone who would like to join.

H. Joint Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Membership

Staff met with the budget office and have been approved to join the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.

Commissioner Kirkwood made a motion to make this the first expenditure of the year. Commissioner Balsley seconded. Motion carried.

I. Plaques

The plaque application needs to be reviewed by legal and finalized.

Commissioner Balsley made a motion to grant a bronze plaque to the Yelm Cemetery property on the Historic Register. Commissioner Hayes seconded. Motion Carried.

J. Staff updates

- Mr. Davis reminded the Historic Commission that The Olympia Arts and Heritage Alliance is having a dedication for the Howard Point marker scheduled for February 26th at 1:00 pm. He also confirmed that there will not be a quorum at the event.

K. Other Business

- Commissioner Taylor and Hayes have volunteered to work on the CLG grant application to hire a consultant to update the Historic Register.
- Commissioner Crowell gave an update on her progress for this years Heritage Day. She would like to have a speaker from the Squaxin Island Tribe participate at the Heritage Day Event. She also informed the group of the work the Squaxin Island Tribe has been doing putting up signs at Priest Point Park.
- Commissioner Edwards posed the question of whether the County has a plan for returning to in person meetings. No decisions have been made at this time. Commissioner Hayes requested having hybrid meetings when we can return to meeting in person.
- Commissioner Balsley shared a new local history webpage, indyventure.com

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.
Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.