

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

Members & Alternates Present: Rob Kirkwood, Grace Edwards, Bill Lindstrom, Charlie Roe, Elaine Taylor, Ken Balsley, Chris Hoffman, Tamara Hayes

Members & Alternates Absent: Beth Mathews

Chairing: Grace Edwards

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 Co-Chair Edwards.

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Attendance

Attendance of the Historic Commission was noted by Staff.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Kirkwood made a motion to add the Book Launch event to the April 13, 2022 agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Balsley seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the March 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried.

B. Commissioner Emeritus List

Commissioner Kirkwood asked that Commissioner Crowell, who recently resigned from the Historic Commission, be granted the title of Commissioner Emeritus. He would also

like to track and honor previous Historic Commission members to show appreciation to their time dedicated to the Commission and stay in contact with them, beginning with Commissioner Crowell. The Board of County Commissioners are authorized to grant such a title. Staff will work with members of the Commission to prepare a list of previous Commissioners.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to grant Commissioner Crowell the honorary title of Commissioner Emeritus. Commissioner Lindstrom seconded. Motion carried. Staff will bring this request to the Board of County Commissioners.

C. Heritage Day

Commissioner Edwards informed the group that a portion of the subcommittee met via zoom to help plan the 2022 Heritage Day. The plan is to hold the event in person and offsite with a focus on Native history. Commissioner Hayes suggested narrowing down the topic and first confirm a speaker and work on a theme together. Commissioner Lindstrom suggested contacting Billy Frank III and Charlene Krise as potential guest speakers. The subcommittee will continue to meet and bring the plan to the entire Commission.

D. Thurston Talk History Related Content

Staff forwarded an email from Thurston Talk stating that they are looking to create and share more history related content to drive more of the community to the various museum/history related assets in Thurston County, and whether the Historic Commission would have funds to assist. At the meeting it was discussed that nonprofit groups can apply for Heritage Grant Program funds, but ThurstonTalk is a for profit organization. Commissioner Balsley will follow up with his contact at ThurstonTalk.

E. Subcommittee Organization and Chair Election.

Commissioner Edwards discussed in the March meeting the need to update the subcommittee list and the election of a Chair to each subcommittee to be the point person for organization and reporting back to the group. The subcommittees are as follows:

1. Outreach
 - a. County Fair- Rob, Chris, Bill
 - b. Heritage Day- Rob, Tamara, Elaine, Grace
 - c. WWP Launch Celebration- Grace, Tamara, Charlie
 - d. Historic Journal- Charlie
2. Historic Resources
 - a. 2023 Grant Promotion- Grace, Rob, Tamara (Chair), Chris
 - b. DAHP Grants- Tamara, Elaine, Beth
 - c. Cultural Resources Review- Beth, Rob, Grace
 - d. Building Permit Review- Beth, Rob, Chris, Charlie
3. Interpretive
 - a. RAC Kiosk- Ken, Bill, Rob, Grace, Chris

F. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Kirkwood informed the group that the engineering is being worked on and will be done by the end of May. The next step will be writing and designing the panels and working with the County on the purchasing process. Commissioner Kirkwood will prepare the cost estimate of materials and Commissioner Balsley will continue looking for photos.

G. Rules of Procedure Edits

Commissioner Roe stated that he had been working on editing the document with staff and feels it is in good shape at this time. Commissioner Hoffman added that as the newest member of the commission, the document makes sense to him.

Commissioner Roe moved to approve the edited Rules of Procedures. Commissioner Balsley seconded. Motion Carried.

H. Updating Thurston County Placenames Book

Shanna Stevenson reached out to Commissioner Kirkwood about updating the Thurston County Placenames book that was written by the Thurston County Historic Commission in 1993. A lot of the names have been changed over the years and updating it would be of a great value to the community. Staff was able to find an electronic version of the document to be updated. It was brought up that such an update would require a lot of hours from the Commission. Commissioner Kirkwood will continue to discuss the proposed update with Shanna Stevenson.

I. Plaques lottery discussion

Commissioner Kirkwood provided a sketch of the bronze plaque to the Yelm Cemetery and asked them to provide details for the engraving. He has not heard back from them yet. The Commission revisited the options of granting the plaques based on a lottery or selling the plaques to Historic Register property owners who wish to purchase the plaques on their own. Staff will set up a meeting with legal to discuss these options.

J. Chaenn Hill Name Change

The Board of County Commissioners asked the Historic Commission to comment on the application they received to correct the spelling of Chain Hill to Chaenn Hill. The Commission was agreeable to the change.

Commissioner Lindstrom made a motion to approve the name change to correct the spelling to Chaenn Hill. Commissioner Balsley seconded. Motion carried.

K. Staff updates

- Ms. Cady informed the group that the 2022 Heritage Grant recommendations were approved by the BoCC and the contracts have been sent out.
- Staff also asked how many members would like to purchase copies of Dr. Jackson's book that was published with HGP funds.

L. Other Business

- Commissioner Edwards informed the group of the happy birthday message she recorded on behalf of the Historic Commission to celebrate KGY's birthday!
- Commissioner Taylor informed the group of her progress on the 2022 CLG grant. She needs to follow up on a couple items with Commissioner Mathews and will be submitting the application to the County by the end of the week. The grant is due one April 29, 2022.

M. Adjournment

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