

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, March 9, 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, Sandy Crowell, Elaine Taylor, Ken Balsley, Chris Hoffman

Members & Alternates Absent: Beth Mathews, Tamara Hayes

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 Taylor moved to approve the March 9, 2022 agenda. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the February 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

The Commission welcomed the newest appointed member, Chris Hoffman and gave introductions.

B. Conservation Futures Volunteers

Staff will request the schedule from Mr. Deffobis and coordinate with Commissioners Edwards, Kirkwood, and Hoffman as volunteers.

C. Heritage Day

Commissioner Crowell would like to set up a Zoom meeting with the Heritage Day subcommittee prior to the April meeting. The hope is to have an in person event in September or early October and Commissioner Crowell would like to have a guest speaker from a local tribe.

D. Budget Update

Commissioner Kirkwood and staff presented the Heritage Grant Program recommendations, Historic Commission Budget, and RAC project to the Board of County Commissioners on March 9th. The Board will be making a decision on March 15th. The Board was very encouraging of the recommended projects. Commissioner Kirkwood reiterated the fact that this is a small volunteer committee with a very large budget, he encouraged the group to continue their efforts.

The proposed budget is:

RAC Project- \$32,000

Annual Heritage Day- \$2,000

County Fair & Birthday Celebration-\$500

Bronze Plaque- \$1,000

Other Projects- \$1,500

Commissioner Crowell requested to use the some of the funds for an in person book launch later in the year, the group was agreeable.

E. Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Edwards would like to have each subcommittee assign a subcommittee chair. Staff will provide a list of current subcommittees and members. Discussions could begin about the responsibilities for the chair of each subcommittee and they would report back to the entire group at monthly meetings. She requested making this an agenda item for the April meeting to discuss each subcommittee and appoint a chair to each.

F. RAC Interpretive Panels Update

Commissioner Lindstrom has been sending updates to the subcommittee. He suggested that Commissioner Balsley work with the City to review the list of photos they provided from the City of Lacey Museum because he will be out of town. Commissioner Crowell has reached out to the tribes and Commissioner Hoffman volunteered to join the subcommittee.

G. Rules of Procedure Edits

Staff will resend the revisions made by Commissioner Roe.

Commissioner Taylor moved to table the item. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion Carried.

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. Staff will purchase the membership.

I. Place Name Guide Changes

Commissioner Kirkwood added this item to the agenda because he was contacted by Jennifer Lee about changing the name of Thurston County and by Shanna Stevenson previously about the name change of Squaw Point. He added this item to the agenda because name changes are happening more frequently in the state and the Historic Commission may play a role and need to take a stance on proposed name changes within the County's jurisdiction.

Commissioner Crowell asked the Commission whether they would be in favor of her representing the Thurston County Historic Commission in support of the name change of Priest Point Park. Discussions continued. Mr. Davis clarified with the CPED Director that the Historic Commission would not be able to take an official position on a City of Olympia Legislative item without the Board of County Commissioners approval. All members are welcome to provide comments as private citizens. Commissioner Crowell withdrew her request for the Historic Commission to take an official stance on the matter and will attend as a private citizen.

J. Plaques

Commissioner Kirkwood provided a sketch of the bronze plaque as a part of the meeting packet. He also forwarded it to the Yelm Cemetery requesting them to provide the text they would like to have engraved on the plaque. He also requested that staff draft a letter to property owners who have recently placed their properties on the Historic Register to ask if they have interest in purchasing plaques.

K. Staff updates

- Mr. Davis asked the status of the CLG grant, Commissioner Taylor has received information but has not been able to access it due to computer issues.

L. Other Business

- The Commissioners thanked Commissioner Hoffman for volunteering on the HC!
- Commissioner Edwards gave a shout out to Commissioner Kirkwood for his wonderful speech at the Howard Point Marker unveiling.

- Commissioner Kirkwood attended the Howard Point Marker unveiling and Dr. Thelma Jacksons book launch event. They were both well attended events.
- Commissioner Kirkwood asked staff to purchase a copy of the book for the Historic Commission library and one for each Commissioners office.

M. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.