

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

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

Members & Alternates Absent: Charlie Roe, Sandy Crowell, Beth Mathews

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Susan Rohrer

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 June 9, 2021 agenda, Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

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

B. Waters, Woods, and Prairies

Susan Rohrer of the Olympia Heritage Commission discussed her roll on the outreach committee to nominate heritage awards. She shared her appreciation for the Thurston County history book, "Waters, Woods and Prairies" and presented the framed award and engraved brick that will both be displayed at the Thurston County Building Development Center. Ms. Rohrer also informed the Commission that she is the liaison to attend the Thurston County Historic Commission meetings on behalf of the Olympia Heritage Commission, the group happily welcomed her! She invited the Historic Commission

members to attend the Olympia Heritage Commission meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

Staff updated the Commission on the progress of the second printing of the history book. The photo permissions have been purchased for reprinting. The Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum confirmed that they would like to distribute the proposed quantity of books of 750. The contract needs to be finalized and approved by the BoCC prior to a second printing.

C. RAC Interpretive Panels

Commissioner Kirkwood has been requesting the plans of the kiosk from the Port Olympia and put in a public record request as well. Worst case scenario, Commissioner Kirkwood will draw up the plans himself. The subcommittee plans on meeting prior to the next Historic Commission meeting to dial in a budget and proposal.

D. Recruiting Members

The Historic Commission took this time to welcome the newest Commission member, Tamara Hayes! Commissioner Hayes gave a brief introduction of herself and experiences.

Commissioner Taylor has compiled a list of contacts at local colleges to reach out to about promoting the three remaining vacancies on the Historic Commission. She added that she believes using social media will have a broader reach for advertising and can be used to target people with interests in history. Commissioner Hayes suggested having public events to have face to face discussions to bring promote the Historic Commission. Staff will inquire whether the Historic Commission can have its own Facebook page. The County PR office will be advertising the vacancies in the weekly newsletter and on social media as well.

E. September/October Summit

Commissioners Kirkwood met with the owner of the Oyster House in downtown Olympia, and they are interested in hosting the Joint Summit meeting. It is a nice location that fits in with the maritime theme and can accommodate 50 people. Ms. Rohrer shared her enthusiasm about the summit and will bring the information back to the Olympia Heritage Commission to spread the word. Ms. Rohrer asked if the Historic Commission had contacted the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation about their community outreach? Commissioner Kirkwood had spoken with them and they have offered to send a speaker. He would also like to have Chuck Fowler involved. Commissioner Hayes stated that the first priority is to schedule a speaker so that a date can be officially scheduled. Commissioner Kirkwood will work on scheduling the speaker and locking in the date.

F. Plaques

Staff shared that they had met with the County attorney and he agreed that historic bronze plaques are eligible for historic preservation funds. Staff suggested the Historic Commission create a subcommittee to create a program for issuing the bronze plaques. The program will need to state how to apply for a plaque, and what criteria need to be met. The Commission had a few questions that staff will research.

G. Poncin Estate Art Gallery Application Review

Staff was routed an application for a property listed on the Historic Register as the Poncin Estate Art Gallery. The proposed project would not affect the existing residents, but Commissioner Kirkwood suggested the subcommittee review the site. Staff contacted the applicant and property owner to schedule a site visit and have not received a response at this time.

H. Barn Documentation Project

Staff received an inquiry from the public about placement on the Thurston County Historic Barn Project. It appeared to staff that this project had not been worked on in quite some time. Staff referred the inquirer to the DAHP Historic Barn Register, Michael Houser, the contact for the program. Ms. Rohrer shared her knowledge of the State Historic Barn Register and stated that the role of the local historic groups is to educate and encourage the barn owners to preserve the structures and provide information on funding and resources. She also shared that DAHP has a grant program to help barn owners with restoration projects. The Washington Trust maintains a registry of Historic Barns and there is funding that is run through the trust, DAHP oversees that funding.

Michael Houser and the new CLG coordinator, Michelle Thompson, will be attending the July 14th Historic Commission meeting to give a training session.

I. Subcommittee Updates

The Commission discussed the following projects:

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

J. Staff Updates

There were no staff updates.

K. Other Business

- Commissioner Kirkwood requested business cards for Historic Commission members.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.