

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, July 08, 2020
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

Members & Alternates Present: Sandy Crowell, Rob Kirkwood, Charlie Roe, Ken Balsley, Paul Hooper, Grace Edwards, Elaine Taylor

Members & Alternates Absent:

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, 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 Crowell requested to include the book on the Agenda and Commissioner Kirkwood asked to add a discussion on the budget. Commissioner Balsley moved to approve the amended July 8, 2020 agenda. Commissioner Hooper seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Roe moved to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

B. Introduction of the newest Commission member Elaine Taylor

The Commission welcomed Elaine Taylor to the Historic Commission and everyone introduced themselves.

C. Thank you Letters to Retired Members

Commissioner Kirkwood would like the group to get thank you cards for the three members who left the commission. He would also like to make a plaque for Commissioner Ruth King for her 23 years of service on the Historic Commission. The Commission agreed and Ms. Cady and Commissioner Kirkwood agreed to order the plaque.

Commissioner Crowell made a motion to authorize Commissioner Kirkwood and Ms. Cady to purchase a plaque for Commissioner King with a budget of \$100. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion Carried.

D. Update on CLG Grant Application Status

The CLG grant application to hire a consultant to work on the TC Historic Register was submitted on time. Members of the Commission will have a virtual meeting with the CLG grant subcommittee on August 12, 2020.

E. Update on Historic Grant Program

The Thurston County 2021 budget will not be finalized until December of 2020. Ms. Cady informed the Commission that the HGP Application process will likely begin in August or September. The 10 year budget suggested that there will be \$30,000 available for the 2021 HGP Grant, but staff is not sure if that is guaranteed. Staff will check again with financial services and report back to the Commission. The Heritage Grant Program applications will be available in August or September.

F. Yelm Cemetery Historic Register Application Update

Commissioners Kirkwood and Edwards visited the site and it appears to be very historic. Commissioner Kirkwood would like to update the Historic Register Application and is requesting a Historic Register form from DAHP specific to cemeteries. The Commission would like the cemetery to submit additional information to the application they submitted. It was decided to hold the public hearing to vote on the cemetery being placed on the Historic Register in September.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to hold the public hearing and vote on the Yelm Cemetery's application to the Historic Register application at the September meeting. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried.

G. Update letter to Other CLG about Joint Committee Summit Delay

Commissioner Crowell suggested that the Historic Commission conduct a virtual Joint Summit Meeting perhaps in October. It could be set up to have “break out” groups for small group discussions after the Historic Commission discusses their objectives and after the hired speaker presents. This could be an outreach to establish what the in person Joint Committee Summit will look like once we are able to gather again. The Commission continued to discuss this topic, some in favor of a virtual Summit, others not. Commissioner Edwards was added to the subcommittee.

H. Discussion to hold the August meeting at the Yelm Cemetery and Visit to the Deschutes Falls park

Commissioner Kirkwood had initially thought to hold the August 2020 Historic Commission meeting off-site at the Yelm Cemetery but it may not be the best option logistically; he suggested holding the meeting at the Deschutes Falls park instead. The Yelm Cemetery owners would be invited to attend this meeting to discuss the cemetery. The Commission agreed that it would be nice to hold a meeting outdoors and may generate more interest from the community.

Commissioner Roe made a motion to investigate the possibilities to hold a meeting at the Deschutes Falls Park at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Motion Carried. Due to the Governors orders reducing numbers of gatherings, the August meeting will need to be held virtually.

I. Subcommittee Updates

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Joint Meetings with Other Commissions – (Charlie, Sandy Rob, Grace) Discussed earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Edwards has been added.
- Outreach Committee/Birthday Celebration County Fair (Ken, Grace, Paul) cancelled
- Historic Register Verification – (Chris, Beth) Apply for a grant to hire a consultant.
- Historic Signs - three historic ballrooms, joint marker with tribes – (Sandy, Ken, Paul) No news due to Covid-19. Commissioners Hooper and Taylor have been added.

J. OTHER BUSINESS

- History Book- Staff updated the Commission that the Book Grant Contract that was amended by OHS was still being reviewed by staff, Covid-19 has stalled the progress. Commissioner Crowell would like to investigate alternative ways to get the book out of to the public. Also, to press staff to move forward with the contract.
- Budget- It was decided to leave the Historic Commission budget as is even though events are being cancelled.
- Commissioner Edwards would like to continue discussing a section of Thurston County Code at each meeting. The section of code would be on the agenda so Commissioners could review the section prior to the meeting.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.