

MEETING NOTES

Thurston County Historic Commission
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg.1, Room 280, Olympia, WA 98502

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

Members & Alternates Absent:

Chairing: Rob Kirkwood

Staff Present: Sonja Cady, Community Planning & Economic Development

Guests: Chairman Clay William, Wendy Dione-Rivers

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 moved to approve the September 9, 2020 agenda. Commissioner Roe seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes

Commissioner Roe moved to approve the August 12, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

B. Yelm Cemetery Public Hearing

The Historic Commission was joined by the Yelm Cemetery's Chairman Clay Williams, and Wendy Dione Rivers. Mr. Davis briefly summarized the staff report stating the Yelm Cemetery's historical significance. The first interment there is Mary Allen Powell, she was one of the earliest settlers to the area and buried at the Yelm Cemetery in 1891. Powell was related to the Longmire's who were also some of the first settlers in Yelm. James Longmire donated parts of his land for a school, church, and the Yelm Cemetery.

He was an instrumental part of the early expeditions to Mt. Rainier, and the Longmire Hot Springs are named for him.

Commissioner Roe asked the Yelm Representatives if there were any tribal graves sites in the cemetery. Mrs. Dione Rivers informed him that there is an Indian burial ground at the cemetery, but there are no longer headstones, they are very wanting to research the graves with the help of the Nisqually and Puyallup tribes. Commissioners Kirkwood and Balsley offered to provide contacts they have to assist with the research, as well as help research a fire from the 1930's that Mrs. Dione Rivers inquired about.

Commissioner Roe made a motion to place the Yelm Cemetery on the Thurston County Historic Register. Commissioner Crowell seconded. The vote was called and all Commissioners were in favor, stating that the Cemetery is of great historical significance to Thurston County.

C. Thurston County Code section 2.106.010, 2.106.020 and 2.106.030

The Historic Commission discussed the sections of Thurston County Code listed above to better familiarize themselves with the duties and procedures of the Historic Commission.

D. CLG Grant update

Mr. Davis gave an update to the Commission that the application for grant funds to update our Historic Register had been denied by the DAHP grant committee. They did offer to set up trainings for county Staff and the Historic Commission. Commissioner Kirkwood agreed that the group should pursue these trainings.

E. Lackamas Elementary School Application

The Thurston County Building Development Center received a permit application for covered walkways at the Lackamas Elementary School, which is on the Historic Register. Commissioner Kirkwood asked for volunteers to form a permit review subcommittee, Commissioners Roe, Edwards, and Kirkwood agreed to be on the subcommittee. Commissioner Kirkwood also requested that staff contact the applicant to request elevation drawings. It was also discussed the Thurston County previously had a planner assigned to the Historic Commissioner to assist with this review process. Commissioner Kirkwood offered to send an email to the CPED Director to request a planner be available to the Historic Commission.

F. Subcommittee Updates

The Commission discussed the following projects:

- Joint Meetings with Other Commissions – (Charlie, Sandy Rob, Grace) The subcommittee had met and were working on creating a survey, invitation, and finalizing contacts. It was decided to pick October 24th to hold the meeting.
- Outreach Committee/Birthday Celebration County Fair (Ken, Grace, Paul) The birthday will be celebrated at the Joint Summit Meeting.
- Historic Register Verification – (Beth) Contact DAHP about trainings
- Historic Signs - three historic ballrooms, joint marker with tribes – (Sandy, Ken, Paul, Elaine) Paul and Ken are having trouble locating the property owners. They suggested putting the marker in the County right of way, County staff will investigate this option. Both Commissioners feel it is unlikely to complete this project in 2020 but would like to set aside money in the 2021 budget for this project.
- Stairwell signs- (Rob) Rob requested the Tenino Quarry photo from Tenino, but has not heard back.

G. Staff Update on Book

Staff is still working with OHS on the History Book rollout. OHS has invited HC members to their meeting on September 21st to discuss the book. Staff will route the invite to the Commission members once received.

H. Other Business

The Heritage Grant Program application amendments were reviewed by legal staff and approved. Staff hopes to have the applications available online in mid-September. Commissioner Crowell discussed having a sign or marker for properties on the Historic Register that could be awarded to new properties as they are added to the register.

Staff informed the Commission that the November meeting is scheduled on a holiday and proposed holding the meeting on November 18th, this would also give the Commission more time to review HGP applications.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to move the November 11, 2020 meeting to November 18, 2020. Commissioner Crowell seconded. Motion carried

I. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Prepared by Sonja Cady, Historic Commission staff.