



HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 31, 2024

4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis

2nd Floor Conference Room

The meeting started 6:36.

Those present at the meeting included:

HRC Commissioners: Nancy Taniguchi (Chair), Tanya Freeman, Bob Honneffer, Autumn Peterson, Adrienne Fritz, and Mariapaola Riggio.
Jay Sexton (Vice-chair) was absent.

Staff: Inga Williams, HRC liaison; Petra Schuetz, Planning Manager; Jesse Ott, Natural Areas, Parks and Event (NAPE) Deputy Director

Public: Larry Landis (HRC Emeritus member), Rebecca Landis (PreservationWORKS), B.A. Beierle (PreservationWORKS), Joel Worden (Friends of Historic Albany & Corvallis citizen), Alyssa Schrems (City of Albany historic preservation program staff member), Bernadette Neiderer (Friends of Historic Albany & Historic Preservation Northwest), Jessica Hougen (Benton County Historical Society), Megan Rice (Corvallis Parks)

A. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Discussion of 2024 Historic Preservation Month

Comm. Taniguchi mentioned that she had received the postcard from the Historical Society announcing the upcoming lectures at the Corvallis Museum. It mentions Bill Robbins lecture on April 26 and that it is in preparation for Historic Preservation Month – she thanked Jessica Hougen for the advertisement. Jessica mentioned that the Historical Society is publishing Bill Robbins' new book.

Comm. Taniguchi asked if everyone agrees that our theme this year is trails – exploring trails through time or following trails through time. Comm. Fritze agreed and the idea is using maps to help guide people through our spaces. Comm. Peterson said that she thinks it is Trails through Time. Comm. Taniguchi said that it needs a verb or an adjective.

How much of last year do we want to replicate? We agreed to discontinue the Independent School open house. But we have a great long list of events, such as Larry's campus tour.



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Inga asked if we could first discuss the length of historic preservation month, with the possibility of the addition of June and July. Comm. Taniguchi was concerned with burdening Petra with additional work since she was new. She thinks it is a good idea but that it might not be the year to expand our offerings.

Rebecca Landis is concerned about diluting the impact of calling it a month, which doesn't mean that we can try to make some extensions. She thinks she agrees with the idea that we can carry some of the activities forward but still wants to talk about it as Preservation Month. And at the end of month or even during all the activities we can say "and we have those other things going on in June & July". But just from a marketing standpoint she would like to stay with tried-and-true formula, and because it is a nationwide celebration.

Comm. Fritze believes we can use the month to launch some conversations that we need to have in the community, such as engage in conversations about the trade school and other projects that we are taking on. We can think about this year a little different, where May is a strategic month where we get to have some of these more serious conversations. Last year we talked about that we have the month and then there are 11 months that we don't do anything. Well, there is a lot to do with historic preservation. From the marketing standpoint and getting engaged continue to talk about it as a month.

Comm. Taniguchi asked Comm. Peterson to briefly explain about the Trades School for the attendees who were not at previous discussions. Comm. Peterson explained that we are trying to start up or partner with other organizations to create a historic preservation trades training program here in Benton County and we have some potential groups to piggyback with, one being Clatsop Community College in Astoria that has an excellent program and also Historic Corp has expressed some interest as a possibility. She is currently looking for places for this program to live. Hopefully we'll have a space to do it and that will help determine what we can offer depending on where we are going to offer it. There is still a lot to plan, such as programming, budgeting, and all that but the main thing is trying to find a space and a program to offer some hands-on training for our community.

James Wooden first thought that extending it was great because then we don't pack too much into such a short period of time. Use May as the focus month but spread the events out throughout the year. Comm. Freeman agreed with maintaining the integrity of Historic Preservation Month but spreading out some of the larger projects and tours. She added that when school is out it might spur families to attend when they are desperate to find something for their children to do.

Comm. Fritze said we can think of our year as episodic, and each month can have a focus. She says that the identity of Corvallis is struggling and we can leverage what we do in a different way to engage the community consistently.



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Inga pointed out that Megan Rice with the City of Corvallis Parks Department has access to a small bus and perhaps there could be some mobile tours that could be spread out over the different months. Jesse Ott asked about the driving tour. This tour is being updated. Rebecca Landis said that you could take pieces of the driving tour and adapt it for Historic Preservation Month. Rebecca though she might be able to dig up the scripts for the previous trolley tours.

Comm. Peterson can't do any workshop in May or June but could do it later in the year, could do it in the winter also. She believes that we should highlight Historic Preservation Month. Rebecca stated that if the workshop were stand-alone she thinks that there would be more interest.

Comm. Fritze posed some questions – if we were to treat May as a kick-off month for the rest of the year: What kind of response are you looking for from the community? What do we hope happens as a result of this? What are the outcomes that we are interested in? Where are we going to focus?

Comm. Peterson thinks we are too far out to focus on the trade school yet.

Alyssa Schrems informed the group that Chris Gustafsson of Vintage Windows is going to partner with the Cumberland Church to put on a window workshop. It will probably an intensive four-day workshop for about 15, but it would also allow local residents to drop in. He is looking for funding to help with that. The Cumberland Church is up for National Register nomination. Chris' goal is to train the trainer, and draw people from across the state. BA Beierle stated, in regard to the window workshop, that this would be a great opportunity to reach out to contractors. It is an audience we have never been able to get and there is a crying need for it. Alyssa stated that she thinks he has two plans, one is geared towards paying students and the other is towards local community members who want to drop in. His budget is somewhere between 14 to 20,000. He is looking for funding. His intent is to have it in May. She also said that the owner of the Natty Dresser runs his own tours every year and he just picks some days.

Larry suggested the Preserving Oregon grant, but the grant doesn't start until July 1st. But if Chris is continuing to do work it can be a continuing source of funding to do the Church project.

Comm. Taniguchi asked if we know of any other group or person that is planning to schedule a demonstration/workshop during the month of May. Jesse suggested that Carol Chin will probably schedule the chimney repointing for the Commander's House in May.

Comm. Riggio suggested that if we target the audience for our workshops and demonstrations it could be more useful. Inga followed up by saying that she recognized, after the Albany Hanger Workshop, that it would have been helpful to provide specific notice to the local building departments because one of the Benton County plans examiners had expressed interest in Comm. Riggio's training after the fact.



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Comm. Fritze stated that one of our biggest challenges is always with marketing, getting the word out, getting them connected. She believes the Trade School is one of those opportunities to plant the foreshadowing of where we are headed. Homeowners would prefer someone with the correct knowledge to restore their homes and this community prefers local. If we focus on this one thing for workshops, which she thinks is a great focus, then we can reveal the end of the story after 12 months, which is the trade school.

Larry said that he was going to propose an event at the Letitia Carson homestead for May but then proposed that the commission adopt the annual Juneteenth Celebration at the Letitia Carson homestead. It would be a way to take an existing event and expand historic preservation month. The local chapter of NAACP is a sponsor. Typically there are 30 to 40 people out there. There may be possibilities to coordinate transportation. Comm Fritze said that there is a young woman who is just starting a wine tour company and she needs exposure so it might be something that would appeal to her or someone else in a similar situation.

Comm. Taniguchi was intrigued by how Larry described the Letitia Carson project and wondered if there were some way for it and Ft. Hoskins project to be juxtaposed. Jesse reminded everyone that the Cardwell Hill trail is a 150-year-old wagon trail that goes through Fitton Green Natural Area. That's an interesting component to offer people. Comm. Freeman asked Comm. Fritze if she came across any information on the Oregon Trail of Tears. Comm. Fritze answered yes. There is a meeting point up by Fort Hoskins somewhere and it is not widely known. The Grand Ronde community has a portable exhibit that costs about \$600 to bring on site.

How do we pull it all together? What are we going to do to launch this? It is kind of a different selection of events this time. B.A. said that she thinks what we are talking about is an annual education program and we are just using May as an excuse to move it forward.

The final award ceremony is a thing that may be the hardest to pull off now. Joel stated that he thinks that would be the perfect time to kick off the vision for the next coming months of preservation activities. This would be the big event to let everyone know what is coming. Looking "further down the trail." Recognizing those people that are leading participants down the trail. Call it recognition rather than rewards. Can call it a Celebration of Preservation like we did last year. Would we still want a speaker or make it more of a town hall on preservation things, or could we have trailers of coming events? Present what has been accomplished and then what is being planned for the future. We could definitely combine both and call it a celebration. B.A. offered to have someone from PreservationWORKS tell the story of the Van Buren Bridge. We would be able to say, alright, we lost the bridge but we are getting this or the other item. Comm. Fritze said that it is a great focal point for that event and why? Because often times in our failures, there are things that arise that we never would have gotten had the failure not happened and it sounds like there is a whole panoply of things to do with the bridge.



A suggestion was put forward to combine a tour of the courthouse and city hall. Jessica cautioned that we need to be cautious about how we communicate the value because everything old does not need to be saved. She agrees that the stories of a lot of these things are the important pieces. Jessica let the group know that the museum plans to hire a part-time marketing person in the spring and she is open to have that person help market what is being planned for historic preservation month.

Jessica started a discussion about access to tours for people with disabilities. It was agreed that the video tours need to be promoted.

Alyssa stated that the Albany-Lebanon Canal was built with Chinese labor, but Albany hasn't done any leg work on a lot of these stories so it is undeveloped. As far as other opportunities, they could tie in with the Santiam Wagon Road, which is a drivable tour. Jessica asked if Alyssa knew if the Albany Regional Museum had redone their exhibits recently to tell more diverse stories of Albany, which she did not know. Jessica agreed to reach out to the museum.

B.A. asked to tentatively hold the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend for the celebration event, which would be the 23rd.

The theme is still uncertain.

Mariapaola asked if we could have a booth at the Farmer's Market. Rebecca said that we just need to email her staff person to get a date. They provide a table and chairs. She also suggested that for workshops and educational events we need to proactively target the audience.

Something we should put in the minutes for the next meeting is groups that we should target and have connections with, what type of audience do we want to come.

The next meeting we will have a scheduling component, a marketing component, and firming up the theme.

C. Update of On-going Projects

a. Fort Hoskins Festival

Jesse has talked with the park board and gotten a little subcommittee together to help produce the event. Comm. Honneffer is helping. AFRANA are acting as docents and most of them are certified interpreters. The goal is to build upon the usual yearly public engagement. There is potential to include the education center at Beazell. The re-enactor group is available to come in October, which is more of a living history thing. The tribal storyteller is willing to come out and tell some stories that are ok to tell at this time of year. The Siletz Warrior Honor Guards are being asked to come and be the official honor guard. Shane James from SHPO has agreed to come to the event. Working on a few grants for transportation to get people out there. County Commissioner Pat Malone asked to be involved. Dave Ehlers was the Small Woodlands Owner of the Year last year. He owns land nearby to the park and he agreed to join the organizing



committee. Adam Stebbins, the County's Natural Resource Coordinator, is going to do a trail hike and highlight the work on the endangered butterfly habitat.

Jesse then talked about the Plunkett House. He said that there is more room than he thought and the condition wasn't as bad as had been assumed. There is a reunion of the King family descendants right after Father's Day and he is going to solicit memorabilia from them for the museum.

He then gave an update on the Palestine Church. Some of the members of Willing Workers reached out and talked about setting up an endowment for the building.

b. Institute for Heritage Restoration

She is working on it. Talked to a couple of different organization about programming but is putting most efforts toward finding a location.

D. Draft of 2024-2025 CLG grant project list and budget

Inga gave an overview of the proposed budget for the new Certified Local Government grant. We are requesting 15,000 dollars. Money will be budgeted for 4 people to go to the Heritage Conference. Also money is being budgeted for the two memberships, the NAPC and the National Trust. Other items are pass-through grants, money for each Preservation Month and Fort Hoskins.

E. Minutes Review and Approval

Minutes were approved with one spelling correction.

F. Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

Comm. Fritze nominated Comm. Peterson for Chair with Comm. Fritze seconding.
Comm. Taniguchi nominated Comm. Fritze for Vice-chair with Comm. Freeman seconding.
The vote was unanimous for both positions. To begin July 1st.

G. Items from the Public – none.

H. Items from County Commissioner Liaison Nancy Wyse –absent.

I. Items from Staff

Inga updated the commissioners on the Driving Tour pamphlet.

J. Items from the HRC Commissioners

Comm. Honneffer agreed to take the Heritage Commission survey for the group.

K. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.