



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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BENTON COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

**Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2020**

The meeting was held remotely through GoToMeeting.

A. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm. In attendance were Larry Landis, Chair, and Cody Hull, Doug Eaton, Scott McClure, Tanya Freeman, Nancy Taniguchi, and Jay Sexton. Jason Allen was present representing the State Historic Preservation Office.

Inga Williams, Associate Planner, provided staff support for the meeting.

B. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes was delayed until after the conclusion of Item C. A motion was made by Comm. Sexton to approve the minutes from September 21, 2020, without changes; seconded by Comm. Eaton. The minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Discussion between Commission and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – Jason Allen, guest

The board members introduced themselves to Jason Allen, who also introduced himself. Jason Allen went on to discuss historic resource surveys with the commissioners. Some points of interest of the discussion are:

- The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department needs to be able to coordinate with the Office of Emergency Management during a wildfire incident. It is important that the information in the Historic Sites Database is as up-to-date as possible so that OPRD can let OEM know where important historic structures are located and then OEM can prioritize those for protection.
- Old surveys used addressing or township, section, range – issues are that addresses have changed and these haven't been updated in the Hist. Sites Database and that TSR locations are very broad. Site locations need to be updated using latitude and longitude coordinates.
- There are about 415 records in Benton County that need to be updated. SHPO tries to get folks to update surveys every five years. SHPO needs eyes on the ground to verify data. For this data there are three important points to be verified: 1) is it still there, 2) where is it located, and 3) what has changed.
- Besides updating existing survey data, Benton County needs a new Reconnaissance Level Survey to catch properties in the date range from 1935 to 1970. For an RLS, it is more about trying to figure out what isn't eligible to be listed in the National Register rather than what is. It is more about covering a lot of ground but not gathering as much information as used to be gathered. In other words, it is important to get baseline data on a lot of properties then focus in on those properties that we want to spend more time on. An RLS does a good job of finding properties that are lacking in significance.
- Those we want to focus on are those where Significance + Integrity = Eligibility Old, unique or have a great story

- Can break down an RLS into different topics – such as historic landscapes, or railroad alignments or barns, or underrepresented communities
- For most RLS in a county, we are talking about individual properties, not districts.

The important thing is to plan ahead and outline what the end product is that the Commission wants to see and when they want to see it complete and then work backwards. Set priorities over certain time periods.

It is important to make long range plans to guide new members and this helps to avoid having to reinvent the commission every few years.

Jason's contact information is: 971-600-6038, Jason.allen@oregon.gov

Link to Oregon's Historic Sites Database <http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/>

D. Section 106 mitigation discussion – Hwy 20 Safety Corridor Improvements

Ms. Williams introduced the topic of improvements being made to Hwy 20 and that maybe the commission would like to think about possible projects that could be requested as mitigation if any Section 106 reviews shows impacts to historic resources.

E. Items from the Public

None

F. Items from the Commissioners

The commission discussed when they would meet next. Since the January 3rd Monday is a holiday it was decided to move the meeting date to the 11th. The discussion would include Historic Preservation Month and further discussion on the topic of surveys.

The normal February meeting date is also a holiday so the commission decided to move that meeting to the 8th and make that a joint meeting with Corvallis and PreservationWorks to discuss Historic Preservation Month.

A commissioner asked whether the county includes protection of historic resources in their disaster planning. Ms. Williams stated that she didn't know but didn't think so. She mentioned that the county was in the process of updating the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and wasn't sure if it was open for public comment yet [it isn't], but that all of the commissioners could comment on the need for such protection when public commenting is open.

G. Other Business

None

H. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.