



**Benton
County**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

Planning Division

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Benton County Historic Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes Monday, May 17, 2021

The meeting was held remotely through GoToMeeting.

A. Call to Order and Introductions.

The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

In attendance were: Scott McClure (Chair), Nancy Taniguchi (Vice-Chair), Larry Landis, Tanya Freeman, David Mayfield, and Jay Sexton. Cody Hull was absent with prior notice.

Guest and applicant for the public hearing: Kelsey Brooks

Benton County staff: Inga Williams, Associate Planner.

All of the commissioners introduced themselves to Kelsey Brooks.

B. Approval of April 19, 2021 Minutes

Commissioner McClure made a correction to the minutes. He wished to replace “is” with “might be” in the first sentence of the second paragraph under Item F. Comm. Sexton made a motion to approve the April 19th minutes with the correction, seconded by Comm. Taniguchi, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Hearing on the Caleb Davis home – LU-21-001

Comm. McClure opened the public hearing and stated the quasi-judicial land use hearing procedures for the record. He asked the board members if there was any ex parte communications or conflicts of interest. There were none. He then outlined the rules for testifying and asked for the staff presentation.

Planner Williams reported on the Benton County Code criteria that she believes the Caleb Davis home meets Section 89.230

- (a), it is older than 50 years,
- (d), it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction,
- (e), it represents a style that was once common and is now one of the last example surviving in the county,
- and may meet criterion (c), it is associated with the lives of persons significant to the history of Benton County.

Planner Williams recommended approval of placing the structure on the Benton County Local Historic Register. Kelsey Brooks, applicant, spoke about the home and clarified that they were only asking that the home be placed on the register (there was a historic accessory structure which was not included).

Commissioner Landis asked Ms. Brooks about the addition on left side of the house – to the east. Ms. Brooks stated that the addition was a sunroom that had been added by prior owners in the 1970's.

There was no public present, therefore there was no testimony in support of or in opposition to the application.

There was no representative of any government body present.

There was no rebuttal by the applicant.

No participant requested an opportunity to submit additional testimony.

The public hearing was closed.

Comm. Sexton moved that the Caleb Davis home be placed on the Benton County Local Historic Register based on findings in the staff report. Comm. Landis seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

D. Spectre game update

Ms. Williams relayed the information sent to her by Adrienne Fritze. Three challenges had been released, Van Buren Bridge, Courthouse, Kidder Hall, and the fourth is set to be released, Willamette Grange. The finale includes the Whiteside Theater. The game has approximately 150 subscribers with an open rate for the emails of 60%.

E. Items from the Public

None.

F. Items from the Commissioners

Comm. Mayfield updated the commissioners on the recent webinar titled, "Community Outreach Strategies for Historic Preservation Commissions and Boards." The webinar was meant to provide information on how to better engage the community. Comm. Mayfield stated that one item that he felt was of interest was providing positive feedback in the form of awards and asked if the commission already did so. He was told that the commission normally did so during Historic Preservation Month. Another item he brought forward was that he felt the county is behind the curve on diversity. Comm. Landis relayed to him that the commission had put on a Black History Tour during the 2019 Historic Preservation Month, but that there was always more we could do. Comm. Mayfield also stated that there was a lot of interest in preserving historic resources from the 60's, 70's, and 80's.

Comm. Landis updated the commission on a stakeholders group that is working with the Travel Council to place historic markers for Mt. Union Cemetery and the Reuben Shipley home site. The historic markers will probably be located in Newton Creek Park.

G. Other Business

None.

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.