



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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**BENTON COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 17, 2019**

Avery Building, 360 SW Avery Ave, Corvallis, OR

**A. Call to Order and Introductions.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. In attendance were Scott McClure, acting chair, Cody Hull, Doug Eaton, Tanya Freeman, and Patti Thrall. Larry Landis and Nancy Taniguchi were absent.

Inga Williams, Associate Planner, provided staff support for the meeting and was the Staff Recorder.

Members of public that were present were: Jay Sexton for the Willamette Grange and Warren Lisser, Sue Rutherford, Anita Grunder, and Katherine Harris for the Independent School.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of May 13 meeting were approved as presented.

**C. Unofficial Review of:**

**1. Independent School**

Warren Lisser started by showing the commission photos of the school as it had been, during construction work, and as it is today. Sue Rutherford then went over the plans for the new bathrooms, which will be internal to the structure. The existing bathroom will be expanded into a handicap bathroom and a closet will be remade into a new bathroom. These will be accessible from the outside by the proposed handicap ramp. During the reconstruction, the door on the side of the school house where the ramp will extend to will be replaced by a wider door. The door is currently too small and will be widened to 36 inches to accommodate a wheelchair. This part of the construction will need to be reviewed by the commission but not the bathrooms as they are an interior element. Plans for the ramp were passed around. The proposal is to build it up gradually using soil and curve it up to the side door. Pavers, pavement or some other treatment may be needed based on handicap regulations. The slope is proposed to be more gradual than required by federal regulations. The area between the ramp and the school will probably be grass.

One of the Independent Community Club members indicated that they will be holding a Centennial Celebration of the school, probably on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Irish Bend Bridge**

Ms. Williams presented the plans for the bridge that Public Works had put together. They included a new shingle roof, replacement of some boards, new paint, and a sprinkler system. Also, there would be fumigation done to the structure and there was a question as to whether there was bug damage already existing or if this was preventative. The members asked that the plans be mailed out to them and Ms. Williams asked that they email her any questions so she could pass them along to Public Works.

**D. Review of Historic Preservation Month**

Ms. Williams referred to the table of all past Preservation Month events that and indicated that it had been updated to include 2019 events. Also included was an approximate count of the number of people who had attended the events. Commissioner Hull indicated that he had heard positive comments about the events and that the newspaper ad had really caught people's attention this year.

Other members agreed. Commissioner Eaton indicated that he was disappointed with the number of people who came for the first event, "Distilled in Oregon". He suggested that if something similar is scheduled for other years that the newspaper be informed ahead of time and perhaps an article be written to arouse interest since the advertisement of the events wasn't sufficient to cover an event so early in the month.

There was discussion regarding the timetable for organizing for next year's event, given that the Heritage Conference would take place in Corvallis in April. It was agreed that planning would begin at the end of this year, and that there was no reason it couldn't be discussed at every meeting and ideas put forward. Commissioner Freeman suggested that one of the events be a Historic Escape Room. Commissioner Thrall agreed and agreed to help organize it.

Some discussion occurred regarding the lack of involvement from the City's HRC members, except for Roz Keeney who was involved this year. The members felt that the planning for the month should no longer involve the City HRC as they have shown little interest in helping organize events.

#### **E. Discussion regarding how to utilize the remainder of the CLG Funds**

Ms. Williams referred to the table she had emailed to the members. The amount of funds remaining to be used is \$1,317. **Commissioner** Hull asked if the commission was going present some money to the Bellfountain Community Church for use of the school for the awards ceremony. Ms. Williams said that it had been discussed but no decision had been made.

Commissioner Hull moved to grant the church \$300 to cover the use of the school and the motion was seconded by Mr. McClure. The commission voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Suggestions for the remainder of the money were that perhaps it could be used for Palestine Church signage, something for the museum, or to ask PreservationWORKS if they had some need for it.

#### **F. Items from the Public**

Jay Sexton, Steward from the Mary's River Grange, was present on behalf of the Willamette Grange. He stated the Willamette Grange is the second oldest grange in Oregon. The present hall is from 1923 and it is on the National Register. He stated that the grange membership was beginning to be more active and that he joined to help get them get the hall renovated by the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2023. One thing that he helped recently fix was the actual ownership of the hall.

He wanted to bring the item up to the commissioners to bring their attention to the matter and gain help with repair of the structure. Members suggested he contact Lori Stephens with Broadleaf Architecture to get a structural assessment completed. Ms. Williams said that if they wanted to use CLG funds to help with the assessment that it would need to wait till next year when the new grant went into effect. Mr. Sexton said he would be in contact with Ms. Williams to discuss options for moving forward.

Some commission members expressed interest in seeing inside the hall and it was suggested that the commission have their next meeting there. Mr. Sexton stated that it was certainly possible and it was agreed to have the next meeting at the Willamette Grange.

#### **G. Items from the Commissioners and Staff**

There was discussion about the next meeting. It was agreed to skip July and have the next meeting in August. The next meeting date is August 19.

**H. Other Business** – Commission members agreed to move the meeting time to 6:30 pending agreement from Chair Landis and Nancy Taniguchi.

**I. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.