



**Benton
County**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

Planning Division

Office: (541) 766-6819

360 SW Avery Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97333
co.benton.or.us/cd

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 26, 2023**

460 SW Madison Ave, Suite 12, 2nd Floor, Corvallis

A. Call to Order

Meeting started at 6:35

B. Strategy on a Page discussion

The commissioners wanted to revise the Vision, which is “The tangible and the intangible. Not just the physical but the spiritual and cultural past. Intangible values associated with our tangible site.” Various wording recommendations were made and two sentences were chosen, “Create a foundation for understanding the impact of where we’ve been in order to forge a path to where we are going. This understanding includes the tangible & intangible aspects of material culture and multi-cultural value.”

They also wanted to correct the Mission with the removal of the word “meaningful”.

Under “Inspire, Educate & Promote”, the commissioners added a task to “Create a communication plan.”

C. NAPC Messaging Guide discussion

Comm. Peterson said that the information on Page 5 of the guide seemed to be the most helpful. A discussion ensued about how the commission could utilize the guide and what types of outreach they could do. The suggestions were:

- Place an article from a commissioner in the museum newsletter or have a news column in the paper.
- Establish a Historic Preservation page on the VisitCorvallis website
- Reach out to the OSU journalism students or a high school journalism program – get articles into the Oregonian.
- Interview each other in order to introduce the commissioners to the community.
- Can we use a YouTube website to store videos? Or will the new county website allow videos to be embedded

D. Create a contact list

Comm. Taniguchi said that we need a list of contacts because we need to know the people who know. Ms. Williams said she has a list compiled because she uses it for Historic Preservation Month, and she will make it available to the commissioners for editing.

E. Autumn’s questions

No questions.

F. Items from the Public



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None

G. Items from the Commissioners

Comm. Taniguchi pointed out that we had missed voting for Chair and Vice-chair this year, although she was happy to continue as chair.

H. Items from Staff

Structural Engineer Bill Barlow met Jess Ott, Shane Galloway (maintenance manager) and Phil Hays at the Commanders House for an assessment of the issues of settling and stress on the chimney. He laid out a plan where Parks removes the concrete in front of the fireplace and removes some old historically inaccurate mortar underneath the concrete. Bill believes that will address some of the issues Parks is seeing. At that point Parks can work on the chimney repaint. Bill feels like the overall structure isn't settling, we just have some pressure points that need to be relieved.

Ms. Williams explained the background to the Swick House issue. That the house is located on the land that the county had acquired for the new justice center. B.A. Beierle had emailed and asked why it was boarded up and, after talking with Gary Stockhoff, Public Works Director, Ms. Williams found out that the county intends to demolish the building. After further discussion with Gary, the intent of the county is to apply for a Section 106 review with the State Historic Preservation Office. All the commissioners expressed a desire to visit the house to assess its status.

I. Adjournment at 8:00 PM