



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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BENTON COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

**Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2020**

The meeting was held remotely through GoToMeeting.

A. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. In attendance were Larry Landis, Chair, and Cody Hull, Doug Eaton, Scott McClure, Tanya Freeman, Nancy Taniguchi, and Jay Sexton (who has been confirmed into the position left open by Patti Thrall's departure). Robert Olguin was present representing the State Historic Preservation Office.

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

B. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Comm. Eaton to approve the minutes from June 15, 2020, without changes; seconded by Comm. Sexton. The minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Discussion with Robert Olguin from SHPO regarding CLG 4-year Review

The board members introduced themselves to Robert Olguin. Robert then asked about the makeup of the board and if there were any vacancies. Larry explained about the term limit situation. There was some discussion about meetings such as how minutes were made available and how meetings were noticed.

Robert asked about the design review process. The commissioners felt that they received plenty of information to make an informed decision. Pictures, maps and diagrams were indicated as being important pieces of information. Comm. Eaton indicated that he felt it was important to actually visit a subject site.

Robert discussed the different types of training available from SHPO. Some recordings of trainings are available but most are put together by SHPO staff in response to a request. Trainings can also be put together with the public in mind, as education pieces on particular aspects of historic preservation. We just need to ask.

Robert discussed historical resource surveys, ones the county has and ones that might be done. Comm. Landis pointed out that a number of resources that weren't eligible under the old surveys would now be eligible. Comm. Freeman pointed out that there are many resources that were surveyed but no longer exist. This prompted Comm. Landis to ask how the statewide database is updated. Robert said that it is a reactive process and the database is updated when information is sent in from local sources. Comm. Landis indicated that it is certainly a role that the commission can play for our local resources. Robert indicated that updating old records is a good idea. Comm. Landis stated that including photos and other visuals is important.

Comm. Taniguchi asked about how to relist a property that was taken off the register. Robert said they need to go through the entire process again as if it were a new listing. Comm. Taniguchi stated that she would like a workshop on the National Register process.

Robert indicated that the state was working on a grant to get a statewide group of African American resources listed on the national register. He said that they were trying to include the Mount Union Cemetery. They are also working on one for WPA (Works Progress/Projects Administration) and PWA (Public Works Administration) resources.

Robert then discussed public education and indicated that Benton County is a star community in public education. He asked the commissioners what they felt was successful about their engagement. The response to the question is that we have multiple organizations engaged in planning for historic preservation month and that each year we try to provide some new and different tours and events. Comm. Landis stated that he thought Preservation Month 2019 was one of the more successful years. Comm. Eaton stated that we had put a lot of effort into it. Comm. Eaton also thought that the Heritage Conferences were great and very helpful to commissioners. Comm. Taniguchi said that the Driving Tour of the county was a great education piece for the commissioners and it was still very relevant to today. Comm. Sexton commented that he was surprised by the number of people who attended the Preservation Month 2020 event in January and their enthusiasm and that he had been made to feel very welcome.

Robert indicated that he would create a report from what he had heard, also he reiterated that he understood that some training and also help with new surveys are two things that the commissioners are interested in. The discussion concluded at 8 o'clock.

D. Addition to the Agenda – Letter from US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Willamette Valley Project

Ms. Williams introduced the letter from the U.S. Army Corps and initiated discussion (see attachment). The commissioners were unsure what resources in Benton County this would apply to. They felt more information was needed before they could commit to consult and comment on an agreement document. Ms. Williams agreed to make contact with the Dr. Casperson and request more information.

E. Items from the Public

None

F. Items from the Commissioners

Comm. Sexton relayed that the Willamette Grange will be having a cider making day on October 3rd called Cider Day Saturday.

Comm. Landis stated that Oregon Heritage will be hosting a meeting of representatives from various cultural heritage organizations to discuss the impact of the wildfires on cultural heritage resources and organizations. The meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 24 at 2:30 pm. Participating organizations include SHPO, the State Library, the State Archives, the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Humanities, and others. Comm. Landis will be the participant representing higher education (his role on the Oregon Heritage Commission) and the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch Program. This link -- <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/DisasterPrep.aspx> -- provides some disaster recovery resources.

G. Other Business

None

H. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.