



HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 27, 2023

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

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

The following commissioners were present:

Nancy Taniguchi, Bob Honneffer, Adrienne Fritze, Tanya Freeman, Autumn Peterson, Mariapaola Riggio, Jay Sexton.

The following county staff were present:

Inga Williams, associate planner; Tomi Douglas, Natural Area, Parks and Events Director; Jesse Ott, NAPE Deputy Director; Aaron Birenbaum NAPE maintenance worker.

A. Mentor – Commissioner Introductions

Jude Graham, the HRC's assigned mentor, was unable to attend the meeting. However, Commissioner Taniguchi was visiting Joseph, Oregon, in early September and found herself in front of the Wallowa Museum. She went inside and met with Jude for an hour. The notes from her meeting are attached.

B. Heritage Grant/Ft. Hoskins Festival

Comm. Peterson attended the Ft. Hoskins sign committee meeting in Comm. Taniguchi's place. She related that the discussion revolved around what story wants to be told. The signage might copy the National Parks Service model. She felt it was good that a Siletz tribal member is on the committee.

Jesse Ott mentioned an '80s barn that is at Bezeal with no historical value. He thought they might be able to turn the spot into parking, by removing the barn, but ODOT doesn't really want to add that as an entrance. He thought, since it is a low spot, that NAPE might make it into a camas meadow. He mentioned Bob Hansen who does these types of widespread plantings. It might also be a great place to put a piece of sculpture to make it contemplative.

Jesse explained that the Board of County Commissioners gave permission for NAPE to apply for the Heritage Grant. He has been working on costing out the signage and the repair for the chimney. Carol Chin is going to be doing the repair on the chimney and she will conduct a workshop to teach lime mortar repair. Tar Weed school will also be involved.

There are some great smaller, arts grants that Tomi Douglas is going to apply for. Tomi said that she will be bringing on a grant writer in the next month and she will also be doing some research. Tomi is building an unfunded projects matrix and asked the commissioners if they could help with the list. Then the grant writer will help find grants to match to the list. She will also help with seismic retrofit grants. This is just items for a Benton County-owned property. Tomi is also happy to provide help to private property owners.

Comm. Taniguchi mentioned the Applegate Trail signage at Avery Park. She was interested because it seemed that the panels could be changed out. Comm. Peterson said that her [Timber Framers Guild?] just built one for free for Silver Falls State Park. She says they can do the same for Ft. Hoskins and make it into a workshop. She can also share the design. The kiosk design would work well with the space.

Aaron Birenbaum said that it is important to think about the long-term design standards of the signage, which would not only make it easier to work on them but also help the public recognize that it is a Benton County public venue. If it is predictable, it is easier for everyone.

Comm. Riggio asked why we were reaching out to schools. The response is that it is related to finding people interested in learning historic preservation trades. Comm. Peterson thinks we can get together a good group. She mentioned that part of the workshop model is that students pay tuition. So that might be an option.

C. Historic Trades Education

Comm. Fritze reached out to Kelsey Mullen, educational director of the Providence Preservation Society. She talked to her about the trades school project that the HRC would like to start. The Astoria Clatsop Community College model is extraordinary. The students are placed immediately and it saved Astoria's buildings. She reached out to the new director there, Ryan. She just made the connections and follow up is needed. The idea is to have a satellite school of Clatsop here.

Comm. Peterson asked if we had an idea where it would be based. Some ideas are the OSU extension office, asking Linn-Benton Community College to be involved. Comm. Riggio talked about her OSU classes and her colleagues classes as being of relevance to some future trades classes.

There is an economic impact opening up a school like this when there are only 4 in the country. Tomi made the suggestion that the courthouse could be used for the trades school, in partnership with OSU and using the courthouse as a test case using cross laminated wood as a seismic upgrade technique. Comm. Riggio suggested a partnership with OSU architecture, OSU engineering, and OSU wood science. Create a partnership institute for historical preservation. Tomi says we need creative solution to solve the seismic problem.



OSU can use it as a classroom to come up with this solution and then create a train the trainer program. Can also bring sustainability and reuse into this discussion. We have a problem in our community that we need to create a solution for, and the seismic retrofit problem combines cross-purposes, partnerships, and solutions. Come up with an economically feasible solution to seismically refit buildings for continued use.

Comm. Peterson brought up that it would be great if OSU got involved but it could also be a barrier to make folks apply to OSU, whereas the community college is much more accessible and different expertise can be brought on.

Comm. Sexton brought up the College of Philomath building. They have stripped the bottom floor and will be stripping the second floor. He said that we could use it for a trades school. Tomi suggested we could just let it start as a summer institute and let it grow. Make this a regenerative community in every way. We definitely still need to involve OSU.

We are still in a formulation stage but eventually we will want to talk with Brian and Kelsey.

Comm. Peterson suggested a subcommittee. She is going up to Clatsop to talk to them about a class and she will try to meet with Brian.

We need a Process Model to follow.

The City of Aspen put together a workbook on how to license preservation trades contractors. That may be something we want to look at when we get the school started.

D. Items from the Public – None

E. Items from County Commissioner Liaison Nancy Wyse

Comm. Wyse was not present.

F. Items from Staff

Inga showed the commissioners the historic resources she had located using Google Earth. These are ones that could potentially be used in the updated Driving Tour pamphlet. Comm. Taniguchi suggested asking the homeowners if they were willing to put a QR code on their fence, and have oral histories uploaded.

G. Items from the HRC Commissioners

Comm. Fritze talked about making Spectres into an educational tool for schools. She is hoping to get a grant to develop a curriculum. She reached out to see if there were teachers who were interested in the idea and found four, plus one parent.

The grant (National Trust Preservation Fund Grant) will need to be submitted by the HRC. The Board of County Commissioners will need to give approval to submit for the grant. Discussion on the responsibility of the commission soliciting the grant for an HRC member ensued.



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Comm. Honneffer asked, "How do we know this is the right vehicle for this educational effort?" Another commissioner stated that there has been three years of success. Comm. Honneffer said that for him that is an important part of why we are not going out and looking for alternate vehicles. Comm. Taniguchi weighed the fiduciary responsibility of soliciting other providers with the time and effort that has already gone into it. Comm. Sexton said it seems advantageous that we have the work and product that can be adapted for public school use, and it would be an efficient delivery of information into a new venue.

Comm. Honneffer suggested testing it out, and that is part of the justification for not branching out and soliciting other people to do the work.

Motion made by Comm. Honneffer: We move forward with support for the application for the National Trust Preservation Fund Grant for the purposes of trying to leverage the Spectres product into the classroom and as a part of that process we will test the efficacy of that product in the new venue.

Comm. Freeman seconded the motion. Passed unanimously with Comm. Fritze abstaining.

H. Adjournment at 8:30