



**Benton
County**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

Office: (541) 766-6819

4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333
<https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov>

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 | 6:30 PM

**4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis
2nd Floor Conference Room, Kalapuya Building**

The meeting started at 6:30 P.M.

Those present at the meeting included: Autumn Peterson (Chair), Bob Honneffer, Jay Sexton, Bruce Anderson (virtual), Mariapaola Riggio (virtual), and Adrienne Fritz (virtual). Staff included Shannon Bush and Petra Schuetz (virtual).

A. Welcome & Introductions/Roll Call

Attendees were noted by Bush.

B. Minutes Review and Approval – October 30th, 2024

The Meeting Minutes were approved with two corrections: one regarding an alternative weekend date for the 2025 Fort Hoskins event and the other correction to contact Dr. David Brauner regarding involvement in future events. Minutes passed with corrections.

C. Discussion on status of draft Benton County Driving Tour Booklet

Item moved to later in the meeting agenda.

a. Review and discuss edits and suggestions from HRC on content

- The group focused on refining the driving tour guide booklet to enhance its visual appeal and educational value by incorporating more historic images and ensuring the content aligns with historic preservation goals. They emphasized accurately marking text and images to provide clear guidance to users. Discussions included prioritizing significant landmarks and removing entries with limited information or that were not clearly visible from the road.

b. Decision on timing and next steps to finalize product with Stellar Design Co.

- The group agreed to continue working on the driving tour booklet over the next month with a small group of three commissioners, aiming to complete text and



image edits by January 29, 2025. The suggested edits would be presented and discussed for general HRC approval at the January meeting. Logistically, the HRC decided to mark up a hardcopy print out of the booklet to accommodate both textual and visual feedback, which would then be integrated into the electronic Word document for clarity and usability. Once approved, the finalized content will be sent to Stellar Design Co. for incorporation into the booklet's layout and design, emphasizing the importance of accurate and visually appealing elements to enhance user engagement.

D. Discussion on historic resources pamphlets at PDX Airport lacking Benton County historic markers

a. Identify who compiled and published the pamphlet (presumably SHPO?)

- The group discussed the absence of Benton County historic markers in the historic resources pamphlets available at Portland International Airport (PDX). They suggested that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) might have compiled and published these pamphlets but agreed to confirm this information. Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring Benton County's historic sites are represented in state-level publications to enhance visibility and encourage tourism. This led to a broader conversation about collaborating with SHPO or similar organizations to include Benton County landmarks in future editions and potentially leveraging existing projects, such as the driving tour booklet, as a resource for content.

b. Ask about opportunities for Benton County inclusion on the next publication

- The group discussed potential avenues for inclusion in future editions. They proposed reaching out to the presumed publisher, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to inquire about the process for contributing content to upcoming publications. Participants emphasized the value of featuring Benton County's unique historic landmarks in such widely distributed materials, highlighting the opportunity to boost regional recognition and tourism.

E. Items from the Public

None.



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F. Items from County Commissioner Liaison Nancy Wyse

Commissioner Wyse was unable to attend.

G. Items from Staff

- Bush is preparing a quarterly report for the CLG grant due to OPRD, detailing volunteer time spent by HRC members in preparation for the Ft. Hoskins Day event and requested volunteer hours previously committed by HRC members. Chair Peterson had 12 hours and Commissioner Honneffer had 13 hours of volunteer time committed the Ft. Hoskins Day event in October 2024.

While the HRC has not yet discussed the 2025 CLG grant renewal application, the current grant period's funding of \$16,500 runs through June 2025. The commission considered reallocating unspent funds from existing projects and hosting historic preservation trade workshops in collaboration with HistoriCorps, combining on-site skill training with restoration outcomes for county-owned historic properties, such as the Plunkett House.

The next CLG grant application is due February 28th, 2025. Additional ideas discussed by commissioners for the next round of CLG grant funding included incorporating virtual reality (VR) technology for documentation and immersive education, with student involvement in creating cost-effective VR models. Alongside these efforts, the group discussed planning a new season of "Specters of Benton County" for 2025, with estimated costs of \$12,000–\$15,000 annually, and focused on improving digital tracking and developing educational content to align with broader preservation and engagement goals.

H. Items from the HRC Commissioners

- The discussion focused on reallocating unspent CLG funds toward a historic preservation trade school or workshops, with plans to collaborate with HistoriCorps for hands-on restoration work at county-owned historic sites, rather than creating a permanent campus due to challenges with funding and logistics. The group also explored using VR technology to document and engage the public with local history, focusing on particularly vulnerable structures like City Hall, the Benton County Courthouse, the Van Buren Bridge and possible some farmhouses with ideas to collaborate with local organizations, educational institutions or agencies like ODOT to develop VR projects.



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Additionally, Adrienne Fritze proposed reviving the “Specters of Benton County” program for a new season after May 2025, with estimated annual costs of \$12,000–\$15,000, and outlined plans to improve digital tracking and develop an educational curriculum based on the program. The group also discussed potential themes, such as Asian American heritage, and emphasized determining funding deadlines and priorities.

Lastly, participants considered the needed improvements to the driving tour guide booklet by incorporating more historical photos, adding clear notations for landmarks, and aligning it with the historical preservation theme while consolidating feedback.

I. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Next meeting: Tentatively, January 29th, 6:30 PM