



**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, February 26, 2025 | 6:30 PM

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

The meeting started 6:30.

Those present at the meeting included:

HRC Commissioners: Bruce Anderson, Adrienne Fritze, Bob Honneffer, Autumn Peterson (chair),
Mariapaola Riggio, Jay Sexton

Gabe Shepherd, County Commissioner

Staff: Shannon Bush, HRC liaison; Morgan Driggs, HRC Liaison; Petra Schuetz, Planning
Manager;

Public: Sarah Johnson, City of Corvallis Senior Planner & City Historic Preservation Program
manager

A. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes Review and Approval – January 29th, 2024

Minutes were amended to add Commissioner Honneffer's name to the Thompson Mill comment. Motion to approve amended minutes by Commissioner Honneffer and seconded by Commissioner Sexton. Minutes were then approved.

C. Van Buren Bridge

ODOT is physically mailing a drive with the plans to Raffaele de Amicis because they are too large to share digitally. Commissioner Riggio talked through some potential locations for the product Professor de Amicis's course will produce. It could be a permanent museum exhibit, displayed at specific events, on the HRC webpage. Experience and user requirements are key to the design of the whole thing.

ODOT is also seeking feedback on their interpretive display for the bridge. ODOT has a survey that closes March 2nd and was emailed out to all of the commissioner from Morgan's email.

D. Status update from Commission on Benton County Driving Tour Booklet edits



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Commissioner Peterson split the remaining NW Benton County driving route between Commissioners Fritze (Mt. Union to Kings Valley Cemetery) and Anderson (The United Angelical Church of King Valley through the rest of the NW Benton County driving route). When driving the route make sure you can see the building, that it's the correct sequence on the route, and if the building is or is not particularly exceptional. So, if we need to save space, there's buildings we could probably note that if we don't have space for them, let's take them out so there's enough space for exceptional buildings. Some of those buildings could be the buildings we do not have any information on.

The commissioners will set up two working groups to finish the driving tour booklet. Commissioner Peterson will send out a doodle poll to coordinate dates available for the working groups. Erik has a folder of all the photos that the county digitized in the past that he can use for the booklet. If needed OSU and UO have large archives of photos and plans, and we can request that they be digitized. Architectural drawings and blueprints could serve as an alternative to historical photos. Shannon will email Erik with an update.

E. May 2025 Historic Preservation Month programming

Sarah Johnson offered administrative assistance with securing host locations for specific events, organizing those kinds of activities, and helping with the ceremony at the end of the month. Corvallis cannot offer the same financial support this year because they are outside of their CLG grant right now, but Sarah can speak with her manager and director to see what type of financial support they can offer. Events that are jointly coordinated between the city and county could be funded from the city's general fund.

The commissioners discussed potential theme titles. Morgan pulled the meeting minutes from January and February of 2024 to help recall what was discussed last year for theme ideas. Commissioner Peterson will look at the themes from historic cities back east for inspiration. The title is still in discussion.

Morgan opened the tour and event schedule from 2024 for the commissioners to give feedback on which events worked, which events would benefit from rescheduling because the days or times did not work, and which events should be cut. Changes in targeted advertising could also increase attendance.

- Alive in the Margins Walking Tour: Jema Patterson led, but it was not well attended, but likely would be with a different time of day. Jema is also scheduling the same tour on May 2nd, 2025.
- Preserving Your Family Photos at the Albany Regional Museum: Runs it itself and provides marketing for the library.
- The Native American Connection to Camp Adair in the 1970s: Reach out to Siletz Tribal leadership to ask about a member hosting a lecture. This was a special event and won't be repeated. We could also contact David from OSU.



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- First Avenue History Walking Tour Albany: Keep. Oscar Hult from the Natty Dresser hosted this tour. Go through the Albany walking tours next meeting with Alyssa from the City of Albany.
- Historic Windows and Doors? Oh My!: Reach out to Chris about doing a demo in his shop. If Chris isn't available Autumn may be able to host an event towards the end of the month, but Historic Windows & Restoration LLC should be consulted before Autumn if Chris isn't available. Sessions like this are very valuable to empower property owners in restoration.
- Second Avenue History Walking Tour Albany: Go through the Albany walking tours at the next meeting with Alyssa Schrems from the City of Albany.
- South Central Park Neighborhood Walking Tour: Keep. Sarah Johnson will contact Doug Eaton who hosted the tour last year.
- The Albany Tweed Ride 2025 is happening on Sunday, April 13th this year.
- Historic Albany Streetcar Tour: Keep, it runs itself.
- Cumberland Church 133rd Birthday Celebration & Open House: Keep. The church will continue doing this event.
- Oregon State University Walking Tour: Keep.
- SE Young & Son Department Store Building Tour: Keep.
- Cemetery Cleaning Workshop, Kings Valley Cemetery: Was not well attended. It could be that there's a transportation barrier or competing events on the same day. Maybe host at Mt. Union or Crystal Lake Cemetery
- Oregon's "Trail of Tears": Keep. Was a very detailed event, well put together but not well attended because of the day and time. Would be great to host at the Whiteside
- Atomic Ranch Walking Tour: Keep
- Masonic Temple Tour: Keep
- History Through Headstones - Historic Linn County Medicine: A Family Pursuit: Ask Alyssa Schrems
- Interior Tours of the Under-Restoration Willamette Grange Hall: Not well attended, maybe make it a series
- Owens Farm: Past and Future: Keep
- Historic Preservation Celebration: Keep



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We could add more neighborhood walking tours. Commissioner Honneffer suggested contacting the Oregon Black Pioneers about a tour. He attended an event they hosted at the Albany Museum last week. Commissioner Honneffer also suggested contacting UO to ask about using their materials from the Chinese American display at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and more local Chinese American history. Commissioner Fritze recommends reaching out to Larry Landis about tours as well. Commissioner Riggio was contacted by the Albany Air Museum-Wings of History Steering Committee, and they are looking to create an event. Commissioner Riggio would like to target professionals for an informative session on the hanger. This would require a different marketing approach. The 1929 Hangar will now be known as the Albany Air Museum-Wings of History. Our contact is Deborah Origer, origer3123@comcast.net, from the steering committee. Commissioner Honneffer suggested that instead of trying to get people to come to us, we could go them. Particularly older adults in care facilities. We could host a trivia night. Many local drinkeries have trivia nights. We could put together a Benton County history trivia possibly one in each town at Old World Deli, Common Fields, or Dirt Road Brewing.

There is a Spectres event at the museum on June 1st in the evening. They are doing a series that includes women's rights, black pioneers, and Native Oregonians. Commissioner Fritze would love to have representatives from each of the groups that are represented in the series. She also suggested engaging building owners that are renovating buildings, such as the Harding Center or Franklin, and they also have money to maybe sponsor something. Commissioner Anderson said he would reach out to Eric and Lee Eckroft. Commissioner Sexton suggested creating a series of workshops or presentations, "*Historic Preservation Month Series*", the same day and time every week of May at a particular location like the museum or the Philomath Museum. Commissioner Fritze said the museum is really booked for May already, so Sarah Johson suggested reaching out to Lee Eckroft for space for hosting an event and Alan Ayres as well. Commissioner Anderson pointed out that Alan's building is the oldest commercial space in town. Commissioner Fritze also suggested reaching out to Old World Deli to host events. Commissioner Peterson will contact Alan Ayres. Shannon suggested asking local theaters, like the Whiteside Theater, to host events or kick off Historic Preservation Month with an old movie. Commissioner Fritze said it would be really, really cool to have an organist come in, even if it's electronic, to reprise the ghost organist that haunts the theater.

Morgan will contact the tour guides and venues to coordinate the tours schedule this year.

F. Items from the Public - None

G. Items from County Commissioner Liaison Gabe Shepherd

County Commissioner Gabe Shepherd introduced himself to the HRC. Commissioner Sheperd used to be a Corvallis city councilor and his first association with local government



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was taking notes for the Corvallis HRC as the city council liaison. He also plays D&D and has written some at home live action role-playing games (murder mystery dinners). He and Commissioner Wyse are attending the National Association of Counties Conference in D.C. The commission is interested to learn how historical preservation will be considered at the federal level. The HRC are volunteers, not funded, so they're going to keep trying to do this work.

H. Items from Staff

There were 16 applicants. Hopefully the intern will start in 2-3 weeks. The internship ends June 30th because the CLG grant ends on June 30th. The intern could turn the driving tour into a GIS Story Map.

I. Items from the HRC Commissioners

Commissioner Riggio conducted a site visit of the Victor House at the William Finley Wildlife Refuge. It's one of the oldest buildings in the county and it's in need of care. She won't be able to offer it as a student project because of access issues, so she's bringing it to the commission's attention. We could help the refuge identify funding opportunities or connect them to companies that do restoration work because they are really struggling finding someone that can repair the porch. Commissioner Peterson suggested setting up a hands-on workshop, charging tuition, and bringing in an instructor to do some of the work (depending on what they need). Commissioner Riggio suggested inviting them to the next meeting to discuss what support they need. She will forward an email to the HRC, so we have their contacts if we want to invite them to our next meeting.

J. Adjournment at 8:00pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 26th, 6:30 PM