



**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, March 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

Staff: Shannon Bush, HRC liaison; Morgan Driggs, HRC Liaison

Public: Sarah Johnson, City of Corvallis Senior Planner & City Historic Preservation Program manager; Alyssa Schrems, Planner II & Historic Planner, Camron Settlemeier, Albany Landmarks Commission

A. Welcome & Introductions

Commissioner Fritze led the meeting since Chair Peterson was out of the country. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes Review and Approval – February 26th, 2025

There was no quorum, so minutes were not approved.

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

Commissioners had not submitted notes to Morgan yet. The original changes proposed to the booklet were small and the amount quoted from the contractor was \$600-\$800. The number of edits now needed and suggested changes to design would increase the cost. After discussion between staff and commissioners, it was suggested that we delete what is no longer there and update the photos and leave it at that. Morgan needs the edits as soon as possible so the contractor can give us a quote and get started. We should be flexible on the design of the booklet because changing the design would be the most costly edit.

D. May 2025 Historic Preservation Month programming

In Albany, Commissioner Riggio will be giving a presentation at the Wings of History. Oscar Hult will be leading the downtown tours. In lieu of tips he accepts donations to the Monteith House. Camron Settlemeier will give a talk on how to research your historic home at the Albany Library. Dr. David Lewis will be giving a talk on the history of the Native people



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of the Willamette. Cumberland Community Event Center will be hosting the church's birthday on May 10th from 11-3.

Morgan went over the confirmed events, which at that time were the vintage window restoration, OSU Historic District Tour, Leticia Carson Symposium, Jema Patterson's Alive in the Margins Tour, and Bald Hill Farm tour by the Greenbelt Land Trust.

Commissioner Honneffer brought up the Albany Regional Museum's History Bites series to be added to the event calendar. He reached out to the Oregon Black Pioneers about an exhibit that was in Corvallis, but it unfortunately will be in Salem during May. Commissioner Honneffer asked about opening up the historic engines for viewing in May. Alyssa said she would reach out to the fire department.

Commissioner Anderson is working on arranging tours of the Harding Center, Lee Eckroth's historic building renovations, and the Franklin School. Lyn Larson's Franklin trees tour will segway into the Franklin School tour. He will also lead a tour he's developing of College Hill.

The Courthouse, Masonic Temple, Atomic Ranch, Untold Stories of OSU, and OSU heritage trees tour guides were very open as to when to host the tours so Morgan has not scheduled those yet.

There was discussion of when is the best time of day to host tours. It really varies on which population we're targeting. Commissioner Fritze suggested reaching out to Anya Ballinger from the Benton County Historical Society about getting in touch with the school districts about arranging field trips during Historic Preservation Month so the kids could go on the tours. The courthouse will be putting together a trunk with the Benton County Historical Society.

Morgan will confirm that the History Through Headstones event put on by the Albany Regional Museum is happening again this year. Commissioner Honneffer reached to UO about the Museum of Natural and Cultural History's Chinese American exhibit and the exhibit will be in place for a year, so it won't be available to us. Commissioner Honneffer asked Alyssa who coordinated the Oregon Black Pioneers exhibit at the library because he would like to get an idea of the cost, since their pricing is variable. Alyssa said it was an offshoot of the Oregon Black Pioneers, Kin Cultivate, that coordinated that event.

Commissioner Peterson reached out to Alan Ayers and he offered up Old Robnett's Hardware for us to use for an event or talk free of charge. Everyone was very excited because of the space and history of the building.

Morgan asked for assistance in selecting a space for the Historic Preservation Month Celebration. Old Robnett's is too small, but the Willamette Grange and Wren Community Center are options. Last year the event was at the LaSells Stewart Center and it was



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expensive. The Whiteside Theatre was brought up as an option. Morgan tried to reach out to them multiple ways but has not been able to connect with them.

City of Corvallis is thinking of who to award. The speakers make a big difference on the event. The commission talked about possible speakers. Commissioner Anderson suggested a speaker from a city that is 200 years old or has historic districts that have served the city, how their city feels about their historic districts. We only have 30 days and no budget though. Other suggestions were someone from the Clatsop Community Colleges historic preservation trade school, Tarweed Folk School, the Oregon Historical Society, County Commissioner Gabe Shepherd, history authors, Kathy Moore a professor from OSU who is a caretaker of the Ballard House and teaches on sense of place, someone from the Leticia Carson Project, Oregon Black Pioneers, Kin Cultivate.

Commissioner Honneffer asked if the Main Street grants were for historic buildings. Alyssa said the main street projects weren't far enough along for any tours this year.

Alyssa will reach out to the Albany Regional Museum, Nolan Streitberger, and Kin Cultivate, and follow up on History Through Headstones. Commissioner Anderson will reach out to Kathy Moore.

There was not a quorum to decide on a name for the month. Alyssa asked if we really need a theme/name so it was suggested to call it Benton-Linn Preservation Month 2025. Camron said that names such as Trails Through Time might be confusing because people might think it is referring to a trail.

Marketing materials will be posted in the Footwise window, Albany will send out a newsletter, Corvallis will promote on their website, maybe mail postcards to historic homes. We should reach out to the Rotary Club, Lions Club, fraternities, newspapers, Willamette Living Magazine, and Mom Magazine.

E. Items from the Public - Historic home partition of a historic farmstead presenting next week

F. Items from County Commissioner Liaison Gabe Shepherd

Jay will be giving him a tour of the Willamette Grange this week and he's touring the museums soon. Interviews for the Community Development Director have finished and an announcement will be made soon.

G. Items from Staff

The GIS intern is Andreas Khechfe. He's a student at OSU and is very excited about this project. He will likely be able to create a StoryMap. Commissioner Fritze asked if he could share the data with Google to update Google Maps.

H. Items from the HRC Commissioners



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Courthouse Preservation Committee is looking at creating a trunk for the Corvallis museum as a representation of a courthouse no longer in use and 2 books about people's stories and the historic structure. If we think of uses for the Courthouse that would preserve its history, please let Commissioner Fritze know.

I. Adjournment at 8:00pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 30th, 6:30 PM