



**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, April 30, 2025 | 6:30 PM

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

The meeting started 6:41pm.

Those present at the meeting included:

HRC Commissioners: Bruce Anderson, Adrienne Fritze, Autumn Peterson (chair), Mariapaola Riggio

Gabe Shepherd, County Commissioner

Staff: Morgan Driggs, HRC Liaison

A. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Peterson led the meeting remotely.

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

Minutes were approved.

C. May 2025 Historic Preservation Month programming

The commissioners asked Morgan what they still need for Historic Preservation Month. Morgan asked for assistance with the Footwise Community Window display. Commissioner Fritze suggested asking Jessica and Anya from the Benton County Historical Society and Commissioner Sexton to borrow items to display in the window.

The commission discussed which types of marketing had already been pursued and came up with some new ideas. Morgan contacted the local Lions, Elk, and Rotary clubs and the Corvallis Elks Lodge and Albany Rotary Club shared the events with their members. Morgan was scheduled to speak to the Greater Corvallis Rotary Club at their next lunch, but Commissioner Anderson did instead. Morgan also shared the flyers with the Corvallis, Alsea, Monroe, and Philomath libraries, posted flyers all over OSU, and posted the events to the Willamette Living Magazine, Willamette Valley Visitors Association, and Visit Corvallis event calendars. The OSU student newspaper never returned emails and we were too late to have an article in Mom Magazine. The PIO had an article written up in the Corvallis Gazette Times highlighting Historic Preservation Month. Commissioner Fritze suggested asking Willamette



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Living to put out an email blast and asking Tracy Meese to include an announcement in the Chamber of Commerce email.

We then discussed the Historic Celebration Month celebration programming. There will be two speakers. Julie Williams from Seeds for the Sol, will speak on solar panel installations in historic districts and retrofitting historic homes make them more comfortable, more valuable, and less expensive to heat and cool. Lori Stephens from Broadleaf Architecture (she has done a lot of work locally on historic buildings) will speak on the balance of being a steward of preservation and our footprint on the future and climate. The commissioners provided ideas to round out the celebration. The ideas were:

- Have old timey music (ask Larry Landis about a violinist from Oregon Black Pioneers)
- Contra dancing
- Fancy dancers
- A native drum circle
- Giving an update on the courthouse to the public
- A slideshow of updates on historic renovations
- How money and investment has come into downtown (stewardship of old buildings)
- How preservation is good for growth
- Asking the 5 Oaks Museum in Washington County if any of their performers would like to use the celebration as an outlet since the museum is closed
- Having trivia during the celebration
- Asking Jema for a free tour as a trivia prize
- Having some of Autumn's books or a gift certificate to Summer Beam Books as a trivia prize

Morgan will update Commissioner Riggio's event title from "Albany Air Museum Info. Session" to "Technical Workshop on Structural Assessment."

At the next meeting we will run through the Historic Preservation Month celebration.

D. Items from the Public - None

E. Items from County Commissioner Liaison Gabe Shepherd

Commissioner Shepherd attended Common Fields Trivia and experienced the Benton County historic trivia as a bonus round. The trivia host also promoted Historic Preservation Month. There were 100-150 people in attendance.

He was able to tour the Benton County Historical Society's vault. He has a tour set with Commissioner Sexton to tour the Willamette Grange. He also shadowed the District Attorney for a day as part of his orientation to the commissioner position.



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Commissioner Shepherd let the HRC know that this year is a lean year for the county's budget. The county is in a budget deficit.

F. Items from Staff - None

G. Items from the HRC Commissioners - None

Adjournment at 8:00pm

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