



**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, August 27, 2025 | 6:30 PM**

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

The meeting started 6:30pm.

#### **Those present at the meeting included:**

HRC Commissioners: Alex Kirschbaum, Autumn Peterson, Bruce Anderson, and Janet Nishihara

Staff: Morgan Driggs, HRC Liaison

#### **A. Welcome & Introductions**

The commissioners introduced themselves. The new commissioners Alex Kirschbaum and Janet Nishihara were welcomed. Commissioner Kirschbaum is an architect and lives in Alpine where she operates a small farm with her husband. She is a project manager for a multidisciplinary design firm. Commissioner Nishihara recently retired after working for OSU for 42 years. She also is on the board for the Benton County Historical Society.

#### **B. Minutes Review and Approval**

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the minutes from the June and July meetings as written. Commissioner Nishihara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were approved.

#### **C. Historic Preservation Month programming**

Commissioner Nishihara suggested working on a semi quincentennial celebration like the museum is. Now that the Tarweed Folk School has a permanent location we could collaborate during Historic Preservation Month and have more hands-on programming/events. The commissioners suggested having a large event instead of the small end of the month celebration with bands (like the Tuesday String Band) playing on stage and specialist contractors and booth demo events at a park or the lawn of the Philomath Museum. The contractors could pay a fee for the booths that would cover the cost of the space rental. We could also have trivia interspersed. The contractors could promote their services and give demonstrations on products that are specific to historic homes. Like an HVAC company talking about how mini splits can be installed in historic buildings. Spectres could have a screen going with the interactive games. This should



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probably happen at the end of May to be on the safe side with weather. We have to think about having power connections for the booths.

This year we should also have some events in Alsea, Monroe, and Alpine. Maybe at the schools or libraries down there. Some events to bring in the community.

**D. Items from the Public - None**

**E. Items from County Commissioner Liaison Gabe Shepherd – None**

**F. Items from Staff**

Benton County Public Works received approval from SHPO to paint the roof of the courthouse to match the existing color. Public Works just wanted to make us aware.

Morgan applied for the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program to fund restoration of the Adair Clubhouse, Plunkett House, and the remainder of the Willamette Grange. It is a nationwide grant so there's a very small chance of receiving the grant.

The North Palestine Baptist Cemetery, located in North Albany, applied in 2017 to expand the cemetery into Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoned land, but according to the Benton County Code there has to be a place of worship in conjunction with the cemetery in order to have a cemetery on EFU land. The commissioners brought up the idea of erecting a monument or meeting house, even if it's just a small space for hosting funerals. It could be a gazebo.

Commissioner Anderson thought of a story he read about a man who lost his entire family in Japan after the tsunami and he placed a red British phone booth in his yard and used it to call his loved ones he lost in the tsunami and it became a sacred place where people from all around the country would come to have conversations with the loved ones they lost.

Maybe the cemetery could do something like that or an art piece that could serve as a place of worship.

**G. Items from the HRC Commissioners - None**

**Adjournment at 7:05 PM**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**