

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2012 6:00pm
Lacey City Hall- Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Loren Baker, Shirley Binkley, Matthew Connor, Rosalie Melnick, and Erik Solveson

Excused: Kimberley Bauman, Ken Dean, Roger Easton

Staff: Lori Flemm, Amber Raney

Public: Diane Dean, Lee Thompson

Historical Society: Zelma Bernd

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m., by Chairman Loren Baker.

AGENDA

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

MINUTES

The February 6, 2012 minutes were approved and placed on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Lacey Historical Society: Zelma reported that the Annual Meeting Committee met earlier today to discuss the upcoming Annual Meeting for the Lacey Historical Society. The date and place have been set—Tuesday, September 25 at the Lacey Community Center. They are currently working on the theme and program, but know that they want to highlight the Lacey Depot's connection to the Woodland Driving Park.
- b) Others: No Report

CORRESPONDENCE

Lori reported that she sent another letter to a previously contacted performer regarding the date held in 2012 for fundraising at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. The intent of this letter is to elicit a response of any kind, and includes a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Heritage Commission training will be held at Olympia City Hall. The commissioners responded that they each received an email regarding this event.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) \$5,000 grant awarded for Himes Diary Digitization and Transcription Phase 2 (Progress Update): Amber reported that she met with Evan Schneider about Phase 2. He was still awaiting the final contract.
- b) Work Session with City Council to present 2011 Achievements and 2012 Work Plan: Lori reported that she was very pleased with the reaction received from the council on the commission's report and thanked the Historical Commissioners for attending the presentation. She made note of the good job done by Loren and thanked Shirley, Loren, Ken, Rosalie, and Diane for participating. She felt that there was great enthusiasm and interaction with the council and also noted that City Manager, Scott Spence, was very appreciative of the commission and asked her to convey his appreciation to those who were unable to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) DAHP Grant Application Project: Amber reported that this is another no-match year for this grant and that Lori had recommended that she pursue a grant to create a video and brochure for the work currently being done by the intern from Saint Martin's University. The application is due April 26. Discussion followed, and the decision was made for the commissioners to review the guidelines and bring ideas to the April 2 meeting.
- b) Fun Fair Grand Parade: This year marks Fun Fair's 25th anniversary. Lacey City Council would like a parade for Lacey, feeling that this would foster community spirit and pride. The decision was made to pair the two events together, and Parks and Recreation staff is currently seeking parade participants. Lori asked if the Historical Commissioners would be interested in participating to help promote the Depot Project, and if anyone had suggestions for what could be done. The decision was made to attempt to contact people who might be willing to loan historic cars—possibly connections made as a result of the Thurston County Through the Decades event—and have members of the commission and Historical Society dress in period costumes. Diane suggested that they ask the Dixie Cats, a six-piece band who will be performing at the event on May 12, if they'd be interested in performing if we could find a vehicle for them to ride on. Discussion will follow at the April 2 meeting.
- c) Long's Pond and Himes/Fleetwood Historical Marker: Amber reported that she was approached by members of the Fleetwood family regarding the significance of Long's Pond. The Fleetwood family has contributed countless artifacts, photographs, and information to the museum since she started in 2005 and way before that time. The family was interested in whether or not the name of the pond could be changed to the Fleetwood Pond if there was no real significance to the name. In addition to this, Amber asked how the commissioners would feel about her creating a marker with the donations made in Lyman Fleetwood's name to the museum that would pay tribute to the Himes and Fleetwood families. The marker would be located out near the pond at the current site of the Lacey Community Center (previous Donation Land Claim of Tyrus Himes and then David Fleetwood). The donations total \$2,000, and the resulting marker could be the first in a series of historical markers to be near the Woodland Trail. Lori reported that while the pond is referred to locally as "Long's Pond," the official name is Goose Pond, which is already confusing. Loren added that the agency responsible for the naming of such things no longer exists. The decision was made to focus on the marker at this point. Amber would like to have it completed in time for the family's arrival at the beginning of June.

Motion: Amber should create a marker honoring the Himes and Fleetwood families with the \$2,000 donated in Lyman Fleetwood's memory to the Lacey Museum.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Amber thanked the commissioners for their support.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Depot: No report
- b) Depot Art: No report
- c) 2012 Depot Fundraiser Performance: No report except for what was mentioned under Correspondence.
- d) Thurston County through the Decades: Diane reported that the heritage groups met earlier in the day in Council Chambers. Nearly every group from around the county was represented. She reported that she also was in contact with Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Nisqually Indians and that both expressed interest in being present. Diane also contacted Shanna Stevenson regarding having a presence celebrating Women's Suffrage, but mentioned that even without Shanna's participation, it looks like that facet will be recognized. Diane went over the rules and regulations of Huntamer Park with the group and had everyone submit the list of supplies that they might need the day of the event. Each group is planning some kind of hands-on event for children, including: color pages of the various sites with stickers that each tent can hand-out; a jelly bean jar (as jelly beans were introduced in this timeframe) that kids can guess the number of beans and win the jar; fake climbing poles in the logging tent; crafting wood shakes; and a general store where kids can get penny candies and small toys. Diane and Lori both commented on Amber's exhibit celebrating the event, which is currently on display at the Lacey Timberland Library.

STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT

Curator's Report:

1. Amber reported that she gave a presentation to Gateway Rotary on Wednesday, February 8 on the Depot Project. She reported that there was much interest in this and the Thurston County Through the Decades Project. As a result of this presentation, Lacey Fire Chief, Steve Brooks, has officially offered the use of their 1924 engine for use at the event on May 12.
2. Also on February 8, the panel met to shortlist the firms for interviews. The six firms selected were:
 - BCRA
 - BLRB Architects
 - BOLA Architecture and Planning
 - Merritt Architecture
 - MSGS Architects
 - Peter Meijer Architect

Initially, the list included Jones and Jones Architects, Landscape Architects, Planners, however the firm removed themselves from the process, leaving room for Peter Meijer Architect.

3. In addition on February 8, Amber reported that she presented the final report on the Himes Digitization Project (Phase I) to the Thurston County Historical Commission. The project was very well received, and she will present it to the Thurston County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m.
4. On February 10, Amber read a book by Lacey Loves to Read author, Richard Jesse Watson to a group of preschool children at Brentwood Preschool.

5. Interviews of the six shortlisted firms were held on Wednesday, February 29 at Lacey City Hall. The process resulted in the selection of a terrific firm. Amber will present a full report on the firm and the selection process at the April 2 meeting.
6. On March 1, Amber installed an exhibit at the Lacey Timberland Library about Thurston County Through the Decades. At the end of the month the exhibit will move to the display case at Lacey City Hall.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Loren opened up the floor for discussion regarding his concern that he had taken the Commission as far as he could and that maybe it was time for someone else to take over as Chair. Lori asked if he wanted to step down, to which he replied that his concern is that he is not qualified to be in charge as the commission moves into construction phase on the depot. Shirley also questioned the Historical Commission's role in the project and reiterated that no one on the commission is qualified to build a museum. Amber noted that this was the job of the architect, and that the commissioners' role is an advisory one. She reassured the group that the architect chosen would make the process open and inclusive of all ideas. Lori said that everyone's input and advice is invaluable. Diane added that she thought that the purpose of the LHC was to make sure that the original vision for the museum stays on track throughout the process. She said that she sees the LHC as support at meetings, bringing the concerns and opinions of the group to the forefront of discussion. Loren mentioned that he is concerned with being out of the loop in terms of the decision-making process. Amber reassured them that they would not be excluded from discussions and meetings, but that it is the job of the City of Lacey to build the facility.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lori reminded the commissioners that Chan Sogge's funeral is this Saturday, March 10, at 1:00 p.m. at the United Churches of Olympia.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 2, 2012, 6 p.m. at Lacey City Hall