

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2012 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall- Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Matthew Connor, Shirley Binkley, Rosalie Raps Melnick, Kristina Trebil, and Ariana Rivera.

Staff: Lori Flemm, Amber Raney

Public: None

Historical Society: Shirley Dziedzic and Nora Brown

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Matthew Connor.

Appoint interim chair of meeting: Rosalie moved that Matthew Connor be appointed interim chair.

Motion: Appoint Matthew Connor Interim Chair of the meeting tonight.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

AGENDA

Amber added an item under Staff/Museum Reports, Bowker House discussion. She also stated that in previous meetings, the Ad Hoc Committees for Depot Art and the 2012 Depot Fundraiser Performance had been dissolved. She suggested the removal of items 10. b and c.

MINUTES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lori reported that this would be Matthew's last meeting with the Historical Commission. She thanked him for all of his hard work and dedication and told him that he will be sorely missed. The commissioners whole-heartedly echoed her sentiment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Lacey Historical Society: Shirley brought the most recent Lacey Historical Society newsletter to the attention of the commissioners, thanking Matthew for his work in getting it finished and out to the membership. She also highlighted a photo of Matthew and her, reminding everyone that this photo indicates what kind of a wonderful person Matthew is and how his addition to the historical community bridged gaps in generations. She stated that when she first met him she knew he'd give his all, but that she was unprepared for how much he would contribute to the historical community and the gracious way in which he would always give his best. Matthew will be missed by all. Everyone wished him much success at Northwestern.

- b) Others: No citizens present.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- a) Thurston County Through the Decades: **Sunday, October 7 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** This event will be held at Tumwater Historical Park.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) \$5,000 grant awarded for Himes Diary Digitization and Transcription Phase 2 (Progress Update): Amber reported that Kristina and Ariana offered to help with the transcription process. She asked if there was anyone else who might have some time to help finish it up before the end of December. Rosalie offered to take a look at the pages. Amber will be sending the pages as pdf files to Ariana, and will continue to send pages to Kristina. She will also be working on it whenever she can, too.
- b) General Commissioner Recruitment: Lori thanked Kristina for all of her hard work in trying to generate interest and support for the commission. Kristina reported that in the past month she had emailed all professors/teachers with compatible backgrounds at the local colleges. She received ten responses. She had one lead—one teacher is considering it. In addition, she talked to all the compatible societies in the three cities; emailed the State Historical Society, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Shanna Stevenson (she will call her, too). She is also approaching architects for a different approach. She will begin speaking with the middle and high school teachers in the North Thurston School District once they have had a chance to settle in to the new school year. Kristina has prepared a package for possible candidates, and asked the commissioners (and the LHS members) to think about anyone they may know. As a reminder, the professional position can be filled by a non-resident of Lacey. Ariana offered to ask her history professor.
- c) Draft Museum Master Plan Progress: Matthew worked on the Master Plan as part of his internship this summer. Lori distributed it and asked that the commissioners read it. Discussion will follow at the October meeting.
- d) Meeting Byes (September and January?): This is not a requirement, but something that happened in previous years. Discussion followed. Rosalie offered that while she isn't opposed to it, she feels the commission may want to discuss this again as the new museum opening approaches. She suggested that it might not be good to have time off at that point. Kristina suggested that if the group wanted to take a bye, it would be better to have one in the middle of summer when more people are vacationing. The decision was made to wait until next spring to decide on this.

Shirley moved that:

Motion: Table discussion of meeting byes until next spring and gauge at that time how everyone feels.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Matthew Connor's internship accomplishments: Lori reported on Matthew's internship. Over the summer, he:
Wrote the press release and eulogy for Roger Easton's passing; worked on the Museum Master Plan; worked on the Historic Properties Register; helped prepare for the Parks Commission Hearing; translated the educational outreach

program into Spanish (although he does recommend a review of this); wrote numerous press releases; updated the website; helped to prepare Ariana for her tenure as Youth Rep to the Lacey Historical Commission; helped with the syllabus for the Saint Martin's Univ. class project at Lake Lois Habitat Reserve.

- b) Saint Martin's University Senior Engineering Class Project Scope: Lori passed around the syllabus (that Matthew helped prepare) that was distributed to the class of students who will be working on this project. The group will be designing and engineering a parking lot on the grounds and architectural and structural plans to transform the McKinney building into an interpretive center. They will add trail access, building a bridge or boardwalk over the lake. They will incorporate landscaping into their overall design. The group consists of nine students. Preliminary sketches should be ready by December. Lori reported that this is a wonderful, mutually beneficial partnership between the City of Lacey and Saint Martin's University.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Depot: No report.

STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT

Curator's Report:

1. On Saturday, August 11, the Lacey Museum and Lacey Heritage were represented at the Community Market at Huntamer Park. Amber reported that she, along with help from Steve Kirkman, installed an exhibit on Lacey's history in the Lacey City Council booth. Volunteers Kristina Trebil, Ariana Rivera, Rosalie Raps Melnick, and Shirley Binkley allowed Amber to also keep the museum open. Thanks to all who helped! It was a successful event.
2. Amber presented a Power Point presentation to Lacey Rotary on Thursday, August 16. The subject was Lacey as a Resort Destination. It was a well-received presentation.
3. Amber reported that she is working on preserving the logs from the Chambers Prairie cabin.
4. On Friday, September 7, Amber gave a brief historical tour of the Lois McKinney House to students from the Senior Engineering class at Saint Martin's University. The students are working on a project with Lori to repurpose the structure and create parking for a habitat preserve at the site.

Bowker House Discussion: Amber reported that she received a phone call from city staff regarding the owner of the Bowker House. Dan Stuckey owns the Bowker House. His concerns at this point are not of a historical nature, however he made a comment that concerned Amber and she called him to speak with him regarding the home. She reported that he has had a lot of problems in the past in dealing with the Lacey Historical Commission where his home is concerned. She wanted to bring this to the attention of the commissioners with the hope that Mr. Stuckey could be invited in to discuss the matter in person. It is her strong desire to resolve the issues and help Mr. Stuckey preserve the home that he very clearly cares a lot about. The commissioners agreed that the issue needs to be resolved. Amber will contact him and report back at the October meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Matthew took this opportunity to thank everyone for the past two years. He reported that he will take away the importance of a sense of community. He was so impressed with everyone's dedication and commitment to seeing the local history preserved and shared. He stated that each commissioner is a role model for him. He also learned the value of sharing his knowledge with kids. He stated that this was his favorite part, and he looks forward to taking this experience with him and continuing to work with kids in Chicago.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jacob Smith House RFQ: Lori reported that the intention is still to advertise for Requests for Qualifications for the Jacob Smith House project on October 8. This will depend on the economy. The project may need to be delayed, but that is not the plan at this time. City staff is still taking no reservations for the building from September to November 2013 in preparation for the work to be completed during that time.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 1, 2012, 6 p.m. at Lacey City Hall