

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2012 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall- Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Ken Dean, Shirley Binkley, Rosalie Raps Melnick, Kristina Trebil, and Ariana Rivera.

Staff: Lori Flemm, Amber Raney

Public: Diane Dean, Stefanie Deyette

Historical Society: Lanny Weaver

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Ken Dean.

AGENDA

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

MINUTES

The September 10, 2012 and October 1, 2012 minutes were approved and placed on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Amber and Lanny reported on Thurston County Through the Decades, which was held on Sunday, October 7 at Tumwater Falls Park. This event celebrated the years 1850-1875 in honor of the Homesteaders group, which was celebrating its 25th year offering an immersive history program for middle school kids. Lacey was represented by a booth which discussed the Himes Diary Project. This project not only spans the years that the event focused on, but also paid tribute to Roger Easton, which was asked of the heritage groups that participated. The event was well-attended, and Amber thanked Ariana for coming out and helping. Shirley Dziedzic, Amy Turner, and Nora Brown from the Lacey Historical Society were also present.
- b) Amber introduced Stefanie Deyette to the commissioners. Stefanie is a recent graduate from Western Washington University with a degree in Cultural Anthropology. While attending school in Bellingham, Stefanie volunteered at the Spark Museum for over a year and a half. She came to the Lacey Museum looking for volunteer potential, and was directed to the LHC, too. She could possibly fill the vacancy for a professional. She will also be helping Lanny with research and working with Amber on the new museum project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Lacey Historical Society: Lanny brought Dr. Ehlers' obituary and described Lacey's first doctor for those in the group who didn't have the honor of knowing him. He was a good man and will be dearly missed.

Lanny also reported on the Gallagher House, which is the historic home located next to the Lacey Museum. Built by the Gallagher family in 1895, it was also home to the Houkee family who were well-known for their large flower garden. It was moved to that location in 1985 in the hopes of turning it into a children's museum. That wasn't feasible, so the Historical Society took on a renter. Many improvements need to be made to the structure, several of which Michael O'Keefe and Bob Krier were able to fix. Additionally, Ken Marmion—teacher at

Timberline High School—offered to help and alleviated many of the electrical issues facing the LHS.

- b) Others: No citizens present.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

No additions to the calendar.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Himes Diary Digitization and Transcription Phase 2 (Progress Update): Amber reported that in addition to the help she is receiving from Kristina and Ariana, Lanny and Stefanie are now helping decipher the diary pages. A six-month extension on the grant is an option, and Amber will discuss this with the Thurston County Historic Commission when they hold their meeting at the Lacey Museum later in the month.
- b) General Commissioner Recruitment: Two commissioners are still needed. Stefanie might qualify as the professional, and is planning to apply. Discussion followed regarding who would serve as chair for the commission.

Motion: Appoint Rosalie Raps Melnick Chair of the Lacey Historical Commission, with Ken Dean continuing on as Vice Chair.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Rosalie took over the meeting at this point.

- c) Draft Museum Master Plan Discussion, Sections 1, 2, 3: Discussion continued on the Museum Master Plan, including an additional history section added by Lori regarding the Northern Pacific Railroad and the track history. A completed draft will be mailed to commissioners prior to the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Depot: No report.

STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT

Curator's Report:

1. Thurston County Through the Decades was held on Sunday, October 7 at Tumwater Falls Park. Amber reported that she and Lanny created an exhibit on the Himes Diaries to fit within the years 1850-1875. The Tumwater Historical Association chose those years in order to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Homesteaders. In addition to the Himes/Fleetwood site marker, Amber presented a binder that she and Lanny created documenting George Himes in Thurston County, the panel display from Roger Easton's gathering in July, and the site plan for the new museum. Diary pages were created on card stock, and were handed out to encourage kids to try their hand at keeping a diary. Ariana volunteered from the Lacey Historical Commission. She and members of the Lacey Historical Society (Shirley Dziedzic, Nora Brown, and Amy Turner) allowed for Amber and Lanny to take a lunch break in the afternoon. Their help was much

appreciated! The event had good weather and was quite a success, with at least one hundred people stopping by the tent to learn about Lacey history.

2. Amber reported that she hosted Tiger Cubs from the local community on October 8 and 16. With each group consisting of at least 10 kids (including siblings), the tours provided great opportunities to share the local history.
3. On Tuesday, October 23, Amber was invited to attend the Planning Commission meeting as a representative of the Depot District Planning Committee. This early meeting was meant to introduce the idea of the district planning to the commissioners. Using the Lacey Museum at the Depot for a cornerstone in the plan, the committee will help guide policy for the planning of the area that encompasses the Old Lacey Historical Area.
4. On Wednesday, October 24, Rosalie and Amber recorded a history presentation for Panorama Closed-Circuit Television. The topic was Lacey's history as a recreation destination, and Amber showed the Power Point presentation that she previously presented to Lacey Rotary on the lake resorts in Lacey.
5. Amber also served on the Jacob Smith House RFQ Evaluation Panel, helping to select the most qualified firm to begin the planning portion of the new additions to the Jacob Smith House grounds.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a) Jacob Smith House RFQ and sign: Lori reported that four Statements of Qualifications were received for the project with the clear top candidate being Robert Droll. She thanked Rosalie and Kristina for their help in the process. Bob Droll has a lot of experience with City of Lacey parks, and worked on the Master Plan for the Jacob Smith House in 2006. In addition, it was mentioned that the Park Board has recommended that the Jacob Smith House needs a more visible sign that indicates who owns it and that it's available for rental use. The commissioners agreed. It will be included, but is a lower priority element.
- b) 2013 Budget: Lori reported that the 2013 Budget includes \$220,000 for the JSH improvements and \$441,000 for A/E of the Depot Project. The Lebanon Road extension is also included in the 2013 Public Works Budget.
- c) Blume 85 acquisition: Lori reported that 87 acres of property referred to as the Palm Creek Headwaters have been purchased by the City of Lacey with the intent to keep the land as park and open space permanently. The city received a \$203,000 grant from the county to aid in the purchase, which totaled \$585,000.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 3, 2012, 6 p.m. at Lacey City Hall