

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 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, Ann Chenhall, and Stefanie Deyette

Historical Society: Bob Krier

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Rosalie Raps Melnick.

AGENDA

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

MINUTES

The November 5, 2012 minutes were approved and placed on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ken initially thought that he found a mistake in the November 5 minutes, but couldn't remember what it was. Lori stated that if he remembered at any point during the meeting, the commissioners could revisit the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Lacey Historical Society: Bob Krier commented on the electrical problems of the Gallagher House presently facing the Society. He reported that all issues have been resolved and things are up and running. He also described the historical significance for the benefit of those new to the commission and the public.
- b) Others: No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Amber distributed copies of the most recent newsletter from the Tumwater Historical Association.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lori distributed the calendar for 2013, showing meeting dates for the upcoming year.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Himes Diary Digitization and Transcription Phase 2 (Progress Update): Amber reported that she is considering whether or not to apply for an extension on the grant. While everyone is working very hard and making good progress, there are still six years of transcription left to complete. The commissioners agreed that this would be a proper course of action. In the meantime, Amber distributed discs containing portions of the diaries to interested members of the commission with the hope that it could be finished before the end of the year, and it would not be necessary to apply for an extension. She thanked the commissioners for their help in attempting to fill the void left by Roger's passing.
- b) General Commissioner Recruitment: Lori reported that Stefanie's interview with Mayor Clarkson is scheduled for Thursday, December 6. She asked the other

commissioners to provide helpful interview tips for her. Everyone was very encouraging and all are excited to have her join and fill a professional vacancy.

- c) Review draft of Museum Master Plan: Lori completed the first full draft of the master plan and distributed it to the commissioners. She asked for everyone to review it and make corrections, suggestions, etc. by December 24. Diane thanked Lori for all of her hard work in putting the plan together. She also suggested that the commission ask Dave Nicandri to review the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Annual review of Rules of Procedure: The commissioners reviewed the Rules of Procedure and noted that they had decided to inspect properties on the local register once a year. The decision was made to have a driving tour in June. Lori also directed their attention to 2b, which refers to the yearly terms for officers elected in January. She asked if it seemed awkward that it is not a calendar year. After discussion, the commissioners decided to keep it as written.

Motion: Accept the Rules of Procedure as amended

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- b) Discussion of 2012 & 2013 work plan and goals: Amber reviewed the work plan and goals with the commissioners, distributing a draft of the 2012 accomplishments. After discussion and a few corrections, the accomplishments were finalized and the commissioners agreed on the 2013 work plan and goals.
- c) Jacob Smith House (JSH) site improvements, covered bicycle racks: Lori updated the commissioners on the progress of this project, and acknowledged Rosalie and Kristina for serving on the Request for Qualifications evaluation team. She reported that four test holes were dug on the site, and each filled with ground water. It may be necessary to revise the layout plan for the site for efficient storm water drainage. She reported that the Lacey Historical Commission will review the project not only to issue a certificate of appropriateness with regards to the local register changes, but also because their input is valued. She reported that there will have to be covered bicycle racks added to the grounds and enclosures for the dumpster which may change the exterior of the property significantly. Staff has suggested that the trash cans and recycle bins be screened or moved so that they are the first thing seen when walking in the back door of the JSH. She asked the commissioners to be considering these issues for the January meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Depot: Report postponed.

STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT

Curator's Report:

1. Amber reported that much of the month of November involved discussions of the roles and responsibilities of the team members involved in the Depot Project. While this has yet to be finalized, she is happy to report that Steve Kirkman has begun the contract negotiations for Phase Two—Schematic Design. She will report again when the work begins and parameters have been set.

2. On Friday, November 9 Amber hosted a tour group from Panorama. Full with 12 residents, the group stayed for an hour, engaging with Amber and Lanny as they divided the group in order to share as much information as possible with everyone. It was a definite success.
3. On Wednesday, November 14, the Thurston County Historic Commission held their monthly meeting at the Lacey Museum. The purpose of this was to present Amber and the museum with a wooden bowl carved from the trunk of one of the Black Locust trees that once surrounded the Andrew J. Chambers homestead. These trees were brought across the Oregon Trail by the Chambers family. Roger Easton felt very passionately that the trees be preserved. However, many of them were determined to be diseased and therefore unable to be saved. The commissioners had local woodcarving artist, Greg Beck, carve the bowl in order to present it to the Lacey Historical Commission and the Lacey Museum. After the meeting, Amber provided a history of Lacey and tour of the museum for the group. She reported that she received overwhelmingly positive feedback and enthusiasm for the tour and the upcoming Depot Project. Everyone felt that Roger would have been pleased.
4. On Thursday, November 15 Amber gave a presentation on Lacey history—specifically the Himes/Fleetwood DLC property—to a lunch group at the Lacey Senior Center. Initially, the talk was to include a PowerPoint presentation, but at the last minute it changed to include the marker Amber created for the Hanna family and the preliminary design of the new museum. Amber reported that she spoke for 45 minutes in front of a full crowd, and stayed for half an hour afterward answering questions and sharing stories with the seniors who thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.
5. Amber reported that she is once again partnering with Dr. Aaron Goings from Saint Martin's University. She will be taking on another intern beginning in January. This student's focus will be research.
6. On Friday, November 30 Amber hosted a tour group from Saint Martin's University. Dr. Going's Research Method's class, a combined group of history and political science students, toured the entire facility and learned about Lacey history.
7. Amber met with two groups of teachers from NTPS to find out what they would like to see represented in exhibits in the new museum. While invited to the charrette process, none were available to participate at that time. The few who came to the museum provided very positive feedback—some from the students, themselves. Amber will continue to partner with educators and administrators of the schools as the exhibit design progresses.
8. A local artist named Rick Perry is putting together a set of local history "trading cards," and Amber reported that she is working with him to include important people from Lacey's history into the set.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Ken reported that he and Diane recently visited the Lincoln County Museum in Newport, Oregon, and that the director there would be happy to share any ideas that might prove useful to the new museum project. Ken and Diane brought information back with them.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Rosalie shared a newspaper article for the good of the order and remarked that the program that she and Amber recorded last month for Panorama T.V. was aired and very well-received.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 7, 2013, 6 p.m. at Lacey City Hall