

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Yasemin Alptekin, Kimberley Bauman, Shirley Binkley, Fermnell Dowell III, Susan Goff, Amber Granger and Kristina Trebil.

Excused: Erich Ebel.

Staff: Lori Flemm, Parks & Recreation Director and Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator.

Historical Society: Amy Turner.

Public: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Kimberley Bauman, Chair.

AGENDA

Item 5b under correspondence was added to the agenda.

MINUTES

The September 17, 2014 minutes were approved as written and placed on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Ms. Flemm shared information about an event at the Lakewood Historical Society.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lacey Historical Society (LHS). Amy Turner reported:

- The annual meeting was very successful. They served school lunches of soup, sandwiches, Dixie cups and HoHos on lunch trays. Helen Drake, an early lunch lady attended as did Mary Zindt, who is 103 and was the only 8th grade graduate of the Lacey School in 1917.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Letter from the Lacey Historical Society. This letter stated that the level of support that the LHS is willing to provide for the new museum project is writing support letters for grants.
- b. Letter from the Tumwater Historical Society. This letter thanked the Museum and Commission for our participation in the Thurston County Through the Decades event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- a. Ms. Flemm provided copies of the 2015 planning calendar of events.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update - Museum tour. City Council toured the White River Museum in Auburn and the Harbor History Museum in Gig Harbor on October 15. Present were Mayor Andy Ryder; Deputy Mayor Cynthia Pratt; Councilmembers Michael Steadman and Virgil Clarkson; Historical Commissioners Kimberley Bauman, Yasemin Alptekin, and Shirley Binkley; City Manager, Scott Spence; Parks and

Recreation Director, Lori Flemm; Museum Curator, Erin Quinn Valcho; and a member of the public, Ken Balsley. The purpose of the visit was to ensure that the plans for the new museum reflect what we want it to be and to learn from the successes and challenges of our colleagues. The White River Valley Museum (WRVM) in Auburn is a city-run historical society-owned local history museum with two sites, renovated in 1998. The Harbor History Museum (HHM) in Gig Harbor is a private non-profit built in 2009 after a long but ultimately successful capital campaign.

The following comments, suggestions and ideas were given by the Commissioners who attended the tour:

- It would be nice to have our museum style be somewhere in between the highly interactive, slick approach of HHM and the more traditional museum vitrines with excellent flow of WRVM.
 - Message of the exhibits at HHM was lost in the voluminous space, so we should be sure our message is clear.
 - Enjoyed the levels of information in the HHM exhibit (ex: pull-out drawers, readers rails and movie screens)
 - Like the sound bleed proof theater at HHM
 - We need to expand our mission's scope to include more diversity, broader area
 - Our museum floor plan design needs to be reconsidered, many rooms need to be bigger
 - HHM had too much office space and not enough collections storage.
 - Donors should be acknowledged broadly.
 - Location is very important to the museum's future ability to attract visitors.
- b. Depot Capital Campaign Consultant Services. The HHM staff confirmed some things that we had already learned, such as the importance of going after the high-dollar donors first. They recommended reading the book by Stuart Grover: Capital Campaigns: A Guide for Board Members and Others Who Aren't Professional Fundraisers but Who Will Be the Heroes Who Create a Better Community.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. LHC 2015 Work Plan Status. Commissioners reviewed the work plan, but would like more time to review it in-depth. They will come back with more comments at the next meeting.
- b. City of Lacey Proposed Sign Regulations. Commissioner Goff asked that this item be placed on the agenda, as there are historical signs in our community. Ms. Flemm had reviewed and commented on the draft regulations, and shared her comments about Museum signs in the right-of-way and event sign that meet the intent of the proposed regulations.

Ad Hoc COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Ad Hoc Committee. There was no October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 6 p.m.

Event Sponsorship Committee. There was no meeting.

STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT

- a. Curator's Report. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported:
 - There were **19** visitors to the Museum in September. Attendance dropped off completely beginning Labor Day weekend.
 - Erin completed **2** customer service requests.
 - Volunteers gave **53.5** hours in September to the Museum and the Commission.
 - Data entry continued: 22 contacts, 52 accessions, 83 documents scanned, 1 items catalogued. Data entry of accession records will need to be the top priority in the next two months if Erin is to complete the grant on time.
 - Inventory continued into the small room off the large artifact room (M1a). Preparation for training Richard in cataloguing proceeded.
 - Erin had two booth set up at the Lacey Historical Society Annual meeting.
 - Erin was a speaker for the American Alliance of Museum's webinar, "Educating your Governing Body About Collections Stewardship". It was attended by about 100 people nationwide.
 - Joe Kalama of the Nisqually tribe visited the Lacey Museum.
 - The joint LHS-Lacey Museum booth at Thurston County Through the Decades was quite a success with 235 people visiting the booth.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- a. Ms. Binkley shared her recent research on the Chambers Prairie cabin. She had gotten a lead from someone who lived on the property at the LHS annual meeting and it will be explored further.
- b. Ms. Goff did some research on the Perkins Photography Studio and Frank Perkins which she shared.
- c. Miss Granger began contacting teachers and has already booked one presentation for February. She will let the commission know if she is ready to present in November or December.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Ms. Flemm stated that a letter was sent to the asbestos attorney seeking former NPPRR employees requesting information about the Lacey Depot from any employees who respond.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall.