

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Yasemin Alptekin, Kimberley Bauman, Erich Ebel, Amber Granger, and Alan Tyler.

Excused: Fernnell Dowell III, Joseph Govednik and Kristina Trebil.

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

Historical Society: Nora Brown, Shirley Dziedzic, Bob Krier, Ken Marmion, Michael O'Keefe, Amy Turner, and Dick Yates.

Public: Shirley Binkley.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Kimberley Bauman, Chair.

AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

MINUTES

- a. The April 15, 2015 minutes were approved as written and placed on record.

INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Introductions were made of the Lacey Historical Society and the new Historical Commissioners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS The following items were passed to the group for review:

- a. A newspaper article on the local historians meeting held in May.
- b. 2015 Commission work plan with status updates.
- c. A copy of Mayor Andy Ryder's speech given at Thurston County through the Decades.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lacey Historical Society (LHS).

- Shirley Dziedzic reported: The LHS is pleased to be invited to the meeting because working together toward the museum is very important and they will cooperate on the project as much as they can. She also commended Jason Simmonds and Brad Burdick for their help with the memorial plantings.
- Amy Turner reported that Thurston County through the Decades had a great turnout. The food truck did a good business. There were over 100 dancers, and the River Ridge Jazz band and a DJ played period music.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to LHS re: Joint Meeting. Ms. Flemm reported that a letter was sent to the Lacey Historical Society inviting them to this meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- a. Ms. Flemm announced that the City Council work session on the museum project was changed to June 4th, but the date is still tentative.

- b. The June 11th City Council meeting will include the Historian of the Year and Lacey History month presentations. All are encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lacey Museum at the Depot. Ms. Flemm provided background and the events leading up to the present. She described the museum visits that the council and commissioners attended and why we went on them. She described the weaknesses that are in the current design. Ms. Quinn Valcho briefly reviewed the site plan and floor plans and discussed some of the challenges in the design from an operations standpoint. Those present concurred that the site and the floorplans present challenges that needs to be corrected. They concurred that there is not enough parking to support the amphitheater, and the amphitheater is not an important part of the project.

She asked for a discussion on what the group wants the museum to be.

Following is the consensus as a result of that discussion:

- The entire group strongly believes that the focus of the museum should be on telling Lacey's history. This would include temporary or changing exhibits, including outside exhibits (about 1-2 per year).
- The programming for the exhibits should be active. Although the design style of the Auburn museum is preferred, the exhibits are passive. They would prefer an active, experiential exhibit with activities to do.
- The museum does not need to include a large event space. It is felt that there is enough event space in Lacey and it would pull focus from the primary mission of the museum.
- A primary focus should be on reaching as many students as possible in North Thurston Public Schools through field trips
- The depot building does not have to retain the historic size, but the proportions would be important.
- Summer camps and paid kids classes should be a parks & recreation function (held at the museum) not a museum staff function.
- Rentals should not be a part of the museum functions or expected revenue.
- The group is open to compatible partnerships, such as with the Nisqually tribe or the library.

Other ideas and discussion included:

- If the Lebanon St. extension came to fruition, changing the name should be considered: ex: Depot Drive.
- Should explore doing pre-tour visits to the classrooms, creating artifact boxes for teachers or preparing pre-tour teaching packets.
- Some in the group are open to exploring other options, including another building or site or just using a depot façade, and preparing a cost comparison. If the façade is one side, it is important that it be visible from Pacific Ave. Murals could be on the other sides of the building.
- Some thought that recreating the exact depot will make some visitors disappointed that it isn't a train museum.

- Instructional programs could be offered to raise awareness and instruct teachers about Lacey history.

b. Lacey Historian of the Year. Two nominations were received and discussed.

Motion carried: To approve the nomination of Ken Balsley as the 2015 Lacey Historian of the Year.

After much discussion, it was decided that a new award, the Lacey Pioneer Award be created with the first recipient to be Zelma Bernd. This will be an “as needed” award with criteria written up by the Ad Hoc Policy committee with approval by the LHC.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Historical Commission Policy: Rules of Procedure. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that there was only one Commissioner at the ad hoc meeting, and more input is requested, so no policies were forwarded to the Commission for consideration.

Ad Hoc COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Ad Hoc Policy Committee. See above.
- b. Lacey Days Committee. Mr. Ebel reported that the Committee has met twice since the last Commission meeting and is making good progress. The coloring pages are drafted, the marketing materials are complete, volunteer slots have been identified and are being filled. Alan volunteered to be the facility chair. The event plan layout is in progress.
- c. City of Lacey’s 50th Anniversary Committee. No meeting has yet to be called. Ms. Bauman has not received the letter asking for a representative to serve on the Committee. Mr. Tyler has already volunteered to be on it.

STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT

- a. Museum Report. Ms. Quinn Valcho provided a written report and mentioned these highlights:
 - There were 37 visitors to the museum in April.
 - Erin continued to spend a lot of time (18 direct, 8 indirect hours) working on a large public records request.
 - The museum received a donations related to Rotary, KGY and a photograph.
 - 13 objects and 7 library objects were catalogued.
 - Shanna Stevenson has begun working on research for the historic walking tour.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

- a. Miss Granger reported that she gave a presentation to Lacey Elementary for 21 students and 2 adults on May 15th.
- b. Mr. Tyler reported that he still has a volunteer painting crew that could be recruited to do a project.

CHAIR’S REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- a. The Lacey Municipal code regarding how Commissioners are appointed was changed in a minor way. Ms. Flemm will send out copies of the revisions to the Commissioners.
- b. Ms. Flemm proposed that the June Commission meeting be cancelled and that the focus be on the Lacey Days meeting on June 10th at the Lacey Museum to finalize the event plan.

Motion carried: To cancel the June Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall.