

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Yasemin Alptekin (arrived 7:16 pm), Erich Ebel, Joseph Govednik, Amber Granger, Kristina Trebil, and Alan Tyler.

Excused: Kimberley Bauman and Fermnell Dowell III.

Staff: Lori Flemm, Parks & Recreation Director, Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator and Christy Osborn, Associate Planner (left at 6:50).

Historical Society: None.

Public: Shirley Binkley (left 7:16 p.m.), Michelle Sadlier (City of Olympia Historic Preservation Officer), and Lee Thompson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Erich Ebel, Vice-Chair.

AGENDA

Three items were added to the agenda:

- 6b. Letter from Fermnell Dowell III.
- 8f. Revisions to LMC 16.53
- 9b. Walking Tour Slideshow

MINUTES

The July 15, 2015 minutes were approved as written and placed on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following items were passed to the group for review:

- a. Recent newspaper articles of interest.
- b. 2015 Commission work plan with status updates.
- c. The survey for the 2016 Comprehensive Plan for Outdoor Recreation.

Commissioner Ebel requested that newspaper articles be sent electronically.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Thompson attended the Historic Walking Tour and thought it was very well organized and very informative. The Mayor's tour gave him a new appreciation for Lacey's historic neighborhood.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. The Lacey Historical Society sent a thank you for Zelma Bernd's pioneer award.
- b. Commissioner Dowell III sent a letter requesting a temporary leave of absence.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- a. 2016 Draft Calendar. The Commission discussed at length the timing of the Historic Walking Tour, Lacey History month and A Midsummer's Ice Cream.

Motion carried: To change Lacey History month to July.

- b. The Historic Walking Tour will be on Saturday, August 13th.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Historic Walking Tour. Comments and suggestions included:
 - This was a great event.
 - The brochure was very interesting.
 - The weather was perfect—no rain, but cloudy and not too hot.
 - The tour guides were enthusiastic and the event was orderly.
 - People seemed to enjoy the tours.
 - Staggering the tours worked very well, we should continue that.
 - The line at sign in was sometimes very long.
 - The photographer should have been able to travel from group to group, but due to a shortage of volunteers that did not work out.
 - Group sizes were good; 20 per group is optimal. Everyone could hear.
 - It was helpful that the lines for parking were still on the ground from the ice cream event.
 - A-board signs were readable.
 - The event could have been marketed more, but if we get more people we need to plan for more tour guides.
 - Many of the walkers visited the museum after the tour ended.
- b. July 2015 Acquisitions. Ms. Quinn Valcho presented July acquisitions and declined donations. A discussion also took place regarding security in the Museum after a recent incident of a broken artifact.

Motion carried: To accept the July 2015 acquisitions.

- c. George Bush Homestead artifacts repository. Ms. Quinn Valcho explained that during a public meeting on the George Bush Homestead archaeology project, she was approached about whether the Lacey Museum might be interested in being a repository for the artifacts extracted from the ground. Ms. Quinn Valcho spoke with both the land owners and Ulrike Krotscheck of Evergreen State College to learn more. Ideally, they would like the materials to be exhibited and be retained locally. There have been approximately 500 finds, but most are tiny fragments. Access would need to be provided to Evergreen students. The land owners are interested in a long-term loan, not a gift, which is fairly standard in archaeological curation agreements. Discussion ensued regarding how this meets our mission, whether we have the space to accommodate it, how we might exhibit it, the insurance liability, the staff time to process and preserve it, and how this fits in to Lacey Museum's interpretation plan.

Motion carried: To pursue further conversation with the Evergreen State College and the landowners, the Clarks, for the Lacey Museum to become the repository for the George Bush homestead artifacts.

- d. Thurston County through the Decades. At Mr. Ebel's request, Ms. Quinn Valcho explained the background of this event and described its turnout. Ms. Quinn Valcho requested assistance with staffing this booth and taking down the event since she will be unable to be there in the afternoon due to another commitment. Commissioner Trebil volunteered. Other Commissioners offered to check their schedule and respond at the next meeting.

- e. Fermnell Dowell III's request for temporary leave of absence.

Motion carried: To allow Fermnell Dowell III a temporary leave of absence through December 2015.

- f. Revisions to LMC 16.53. Christy Osborn, Associate Planner for the City, presented the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation ordinance and the introduction of a Plan for Inadvertent Discoveries of Archaeological and Historical Resources. Ms. Osborn apologized to the Historical Commission for excluding them in the earlier stages of review; it was an accidental oversight. The Planning Commission (PC) meeting on August 18th was to include a public hearing on this topic, but the PC did not have a quorum so it will be rescheduled for next month's PC meeting.

Ms. Osborn fielded questions from the Commission including how the City is using DAHP's database, how the permit process works, how the City can improve cooperation with DAHP, the meaning of "no net loss" and how it applies to these changes, why the exempt thresholds are being reduced, and the affect of these changes on development projects. The Historical Commission will provide written comments to the PC and they are welcome to present those comments in person at the public hearing next month.

After Ms. Osborn left, Mr. Ebel shared his timeline of events and concerns over what took place. He spoke with DAHP and they are concerned that the City has not downloaded the latest data for review of historical resources. Mr. Ebel would like the Commission to assist in improving this relationship. Ms. Quinn Valcho noted that simply because a property has been developed does not mean that there are no historic or archaeological resources present.

It was agreed that Mr. Ebel would draft a letter and comments on the LMC and the Discovery Plan for the PC. Ms. Trebil suggested that the LHC attend the public hearing to show their support.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. A Midsummer's Ice Cream slideshow.
- b. Walking Tour slideshow.

Ms. Alptekin compiled the images she had taken at two events this summer into a slideshow accompanied by music, and projected the slideshows.

Ad Hoc COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Ad Hoc Policy Committee. This committee is on hiatus until October.
- b. Lacey Days Committee. This committee is on hiatus until January.
- c. City of Lacey's 50th Anniversary Committee. Ms. Quinn Valcho updated the Commission on the Committee's activities. At this point, they are proposing that the celebration begin with Lacey Days 2016, specifically the July 3rd fireworks and ending with Lacey Days 2017, specifically the South Sound BBQ. A birthday celebration event is proposed for Monday, December 5. Community partners will be invited to either create an event or beef up an existing event to be a part of the 50th anniversary. Some existing events have been identified by the committee as ones that would be good to highlight, including the tree lighting, Spring Fun

Fair. Mr. Tyler asked for the blessing of the Commission to pursue St. Martin's as a venue for the December event.

STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT

Ms. Quinn Valcho provided a written report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- c. Commissioner Ebel will be presenting a workshop on heritage tourism at the Scenic Washington Insider's Retreat September 30–October 2 in Winthrop. If anyone is interested in attending, they should email him.
- d. Commissioner Alptekin noted that the school outreach presentation should reflect accuracy in terms of the naming of Lacey and when it occurred.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Ms. Flemm reported that the mid-year status report on the work plan was sent to City Council.
- b. 2016 Budget Request. Tabled until next month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall.