

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2016 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Erich Ebel, Joseph Govednik (arrived 6:07 p.m.), Nathan Hunt, and Alan Tyler.

Excused: Yasemin Alptekin and Kristina Trebil.

Staff: Erin Quinn Valcho.

Historical Society: Michael O'Keefe.

Public: Shirley Binkley.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Erich Ebel, Chair.

AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as written.

MINUTES

The May 15, 2016, June 15, 2016 and June 30, 2016 minutes were approved as written and put on record.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A revised calendar was submitted to reflect decisions made at the June 30 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Update on Museum Project. Special guest City Manager Scott Spence reported that negotiations for purchase of the 5700 Lacey Blvd. property took over a year and because Council was discussing it in Executive Session he was unable to speak about it in a public meeting before. The purchase should close on August 11th. When we last discussed the project, we were reviewing a plan that included the re-created historic depot with a basement to house museum operations with a price of about \$6-7 million. Council had concerns over the cost and functionality. Council's tours to other museums gave a different perspective on what the museum could be for the community. The next steps will be to put some money in the budget to begin re-thinking the vision. He would like to see the building exterior and surrounding area improved visually and appear more historic as there is the opportunity to create a landmark and set the tone for the entire Depot District. Consideration needs to be given for how the museum can grow into the building. Other civic uses, such as meeting or event space, will be considered. Commissioner Ebel stated that the

Commission was very excited at the news and he asked about the timeline for the project. Mr. Spence responded that the first steps could take place in 2017. A project kick-off could potentially yet take place during the 50th anniversary celebration. Discussions ensued regarding the size of the previous plans, the plans for the current museum building and the plans for the 5700 building. Mr. Spence stated that there is still the possibility that the depot could be re-created as a trail amenity. Mr. Govednik asked for a Commission site visit. Mr. Spence replied that he would be in favor of that once the current tenant is out of the building. Mr. Ebel asked about staffing for the new museum. Mr. Spence replied that we want to grow into the space incrementally and so it is probably more of a long-term proposition. Discussion continued after Mr. Spence departed. Ms. Quinn Valcho asked Commissioners to think about the exterior and think of ideas for how we can design it to both honor the history of the area but also speak to a modern audience. Ms. Binkley suggested adding historic street lighting to add to the ambience. Mr. Govednik said that he is concerned that rentals and events should not overshadow the museum operation. The Commission also expressed their desire to have the museum curator as the subject matter expert be an active presence in meetings related to the project.

- b. Recent Acquisitions. Mr. Balsley's donation was accepted with the wording change. Mr. Ebel asked how much more we could expect from this donor. Ms. Quinn Valcho stated that it should be the last of it.

Mr. Ebel also expressed concern about securing full title to previously acquired collections to ensure that public relations issues don't arise from unhappy donors in the future. Ms. Quinn Valcho said that though it would be time and cost prohibitive to ensure complete title to all of our collections, she expressed confidence that unless items are a loan, that she could handle any issues like this if they arise.

Motion: To approve the Recent Acquisitions with a minor change.

- c. History Month & Historian of the Year Presentation. Ms. Quinn Valcho recapped the presentation at the City Council meeting last week. There was good response from the audience about the Bob Blume presentation. Mr. Ebel described how he, Ms. Alptekin and Ms. Quinn Valcho visited with Lori the next night as she was presented with the award and heard the good news about the museum building purchase.
- d. Commissioner Trebil's Leave of Absence. Ms. Trebil will return in August. A vote will not be required since it is not more than 3 absences.
- e. 50th Anniversary Exhibit Update. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that work has begun in earnest on the 50th Anniversary exhibit. Three concept designs have been received for the exhibit panels.
- f. A Midsummer's Ice Cream Debriefing. Commissioners discussed the event and made the following comments and suggestions:
- The Ezra Meeker Wagon was a great addition and we would have them back.
 - It was nice to see such a diverse group of visitors.
 - Need to also have a volunteer photographer in addition to staff.
 - Would like to have a police presence (community resource officer).
 - Changing location to the new facility will be considered as we get closer; perhaps even having a public unveiling of the site and project at the same time.

- Ice cream ran out; partly because we didn't have enough to begin with and we made the portions too generous. The cups were oversized which made this easy to do. In some ways, we were saved by the cloudy/rainy weather.
- Would like to explore monetary sponsorships in the future.
- Consider investing in the equipment like a freezer, canopies, etc. now that we will have the storage space.
- Better communication with volunteers could avoid some problems.
- Sue and Parks & Recreation staff is to be commended for all their help with the event.
- Parking went very smoothly; did make use of overflow areas.
- July 3rd fireworks handout successful in bringing people to the event.
- Reserved spaces up front needs better language.
- School room volunteer was very good.

The Commission declared the event a huge success with a count of 400 people.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Lacey Reserve Project. The hearing examiner decided in the City's favor and Mr. Panesko and the neighbors who were fighting it decided not to appeal because of money and time factors.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Policy/StEPs Committee Report. There is no meeting this month. The Committee will resume on August 24.
- b. Lacey Days/Event Committee. Disbanded until 2017.
- c. City of Lacey's 50th Anniversary Committee. Next meeting is August 2nd. Mr. Ebel will be representing the Commission.
- d. Youth Commissioner Committee. Ms. Alptekin, Mr. Ebel and Mr. Govednik will be meeting before the next Commission meeting.

STAFF/MUSEUM REPORT

Ms. Quinn Valcho reported for June:

- 51 visitors and attendance overall is currently 35% over 2015 year to date.
- There was 1 tour, the Daughters of the American Revolution, with 11 people.
- 5 customer service requests completed and 11 open requests.
- Volunteers gave 72.75 volunteer hours.
- Data entry: 187 records entered and 50 images added.
- One 50th anniversary presentation was given, reaching 27 people.
- Spring newsletter was published.
- Most of the month was spent preparing for the ice cream event.
- Ms. Quinn Valcho attended the Washington Museum Association conference in Tacoma.
- Minor flood in the museum supply closet.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

None.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Ebel asked if the Old Brewhouse Foundation had given us any feedback about our panel. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that we received a thank you.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ebel asked for an update on the recruitment process for the Parks & Recreation Director. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that Karras Consulting is conducting the search and she had the opportunity to meet with them. The announcement has been published. It's an attractive position and has possibility to attract excellent candidates. First step for the consultant team is to thoroughly vet potential candidates. Details on how staff and/or the Commission will be involved have yet to be determined.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall.