

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2016 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Erich Ebel, Joseph Govednik, Nathan Hunt, Kristina Trebil and Alan Tyler (arrived 6:28 p.m.).

Excused: None.

Staff: Erin Quinn Valcho.

Historical Society: Michael O'Keefe.

Public: Shirley Binkley and Hunter Orcutt.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Erich Ebel, Chair.

AGENDA

Two items were added to the agenda:

- 4b. Youth Commissioner Introduction
- 8e. Visit to the Bush Homestead Site

MINUTES

The July 20, 2016 minutes were approved as written and put on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Report on Fernnell Dowell Recognition. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that Mr. Dowell and his wife were present. He was honored to be recognized for his service.
- b. Youth Commissioner Introduction. Ms. Quinn Valcho introduced Mr. Orcutt, who will be appointed on August 25th at the City Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Mr. O'Keefe reported that the Lacey Historical Society is working to get their fall newsletter published.
- b. Ms. Binkley suggested that an interim Commissioner be appointed while the recruitment takes place. Chairman Ebel responded that we would discuss this under agenda item 8b.
- c. Ms. Binkley also updated the group on her research on the Chambers Prairie Cabin.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Mr. Ebel and Ms. Quinn Valcho received a letter of resignation from Yasemin Alptekin on August 8th.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- a. Commissioner Alptekin Recognition. Ms. Alptekin will be recognized for her service on September 22nd. Mr. Ebel will present the award. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Recent Acquisitions. Ms. Quinn Valcho presented the 3 acquisitions for the month (2016-006, 2016-007, 2016-008). Mr. Ebel noted that it was a great month for donations.

Motion approved: To approve the Recent Acquisitions.

- b. Update on Commissioner Search. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that the City recently began advertising for the vacancies, but does not know if any applications have been received. A discussion ensued about what should be done to promote the vacancy and whether it would be appropriate to ask a former Commissioner to fill in. It was confirmed that all Commissioners whose terms will expire in September are planning to continue serving on the Commission.

Motion approved: To have Mr. Ebel write a letter on behalf of the Commission to recommend to the Mayor that Shirley Binkley be appointed to the Commission if there is not another qualified applicant after a reasonable period of time.

- c. Youth Commissioner (YC) Duties. Mr. Ebel reported that due to scheduling difficulties the committee had been unable to meet. Before the meeting, Ms. Quinn Valcho asked committee members via email for direction on what duties to share at YC interviews and it was determined that it was best to have the YC perform the duties of a regular Commissioner, but that if they had some project or were passionate about accomplishing something during their tenure, the Commission would support them. After a discussion, the Commission agreed.
- d. Strategic Planning. Ms. Quinn Valcho asked the Commission for their input on strategic planning. The Commission was supportive and willing to commit time to the process. Ms. Quinn Valcho was directed to see if there could be budget included in the 2017 museum planning budget for a facilitator. If funding is not attainable, then Ms. Quinn Valcho (or possibly the new Parks & Recreation Director) could fill that role. Targeted time to begin would be January or February.
- e. Visit to the Bush Homestead site. Mr. Ebel reported that the archaeological dig at the Bush Homestead site is up and running again. He asked the Commissioners if the group would like to accompany him on a visit to the site. It was agreed that the best date would be August 29 at 2:45 p.m. (for the 3 p.m. tour).

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on Museum Project. Ms. Quinn Valcho met with the City Manager and discussed programming ideas for the new museum, timeline for increasing staffing, and the Curator's inclusion in meetings about the project.

- b. Update on Director Search. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that the first round of applications closes next week and already 40 applications have been received. The employee interview panel will be on Monday, September 19 and the Curator will be present.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Policy/StEPs Committee Report. Ms. Trebil reported that the committee has been on hiatus for the summer and will meet next month. Ms. Quinn Valcho said that the Collections Access policy would be worked on next.
- b. City of Lacey's 50th Anniversary Committee. Mr. Ebel reported that there was discussion about a public art piece which could possibly include a water feature. Ms. Quinn Valcho noted that three ideas will be presented to the Council. The Historic Committee continues to publish articles for ThurstonTalk and give presentations. Work on the traveling exhibit continues. Mr. Ebel reported that there was discussion about the pros and cons of the 3rd of July event. Mr. Govednik will attend the September meeting.
- c. Youth Commissioner Committee. No report.

Motion carried: To disband the Youth Commissioner Ad hoc committee.

STAFF/MUSEUM REPORT

Ms. Quinn Valcho reported for July:

- With 40 walk-in visitors and 400 attending the event, overall visitation has surpassed all of 2015. Publicity about the new museum project has increased visitation the last month.
 - There was 1 tour with 2 people.
- 8 customer service requests completed and 9 open requests.
- Volunteers gave 196 volunteer hours with a large portion of those due to the dedicated folks helping us at the event.
- Data entry: 105 records entered and 250 images added.
- After the event, the majority of time was spent writing text and selecting and scanning images for the 50th anniversary exhibit.
- The latest ThurstonTalk article on the Library was published.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Ms. Trebil reported that she was grateful for the time in the last two months to spend with her family and taking care of health issues. She will also need to be absent in October for a surgery.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Ebel noted that the Washington State Historical Society is looking for volunteers to be trained on their large format scanner, one of two in the state, if anyone is interested.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Quinn Valcho reminded the Commission that next month we will start to look at the Work Plan to prepare for end of the year reporting.

Voting for the next year's officers will take place in November, so by October we should have nominations for the post.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall.