

MINUTES
Mason County Historic Preservation Commission
August 13, 2015

Mason County Commissioner's Chamber
411 N 5th Street
Shelton WA, 98584

Members Present: Rick Calvin, Marty Harrell, David Corliss and “Butch” Carter.

Excused Members: Stephanie Neil, Jamie Bariekman and Steve Rose.

County Staff: Michael MacSems

Guests: Ross Gallagher, Wade Wy

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 and roll call was conducted.

Ms Harrell was selected the minute taker due to Staff Melissa Drewery's absence.

There were no corrections to the July 9th minutes. Mr. Carter made motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Corliss seconded it. The motion was carried.

Correspondence: Mr. MacSems reported that the only mail received in the past month was the July 2015 newsletter of the Mason County Historical Society. Mr. MacSems said that he had talked on the phone to a gentleman representing the Masonic Cemetery in Union about the process of applying for a Heritage Grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

At 2:05 Chair Calvin opened a public hearing to consider the nomination of the Twin Firs Cemetery, near Belfair, to Mason County Historic Registry. Much discussion followed. Mr. Carter made a motion to continue the hearing until September 10th and to ask the Mason County Cemetery District #1 to provide some additional information in regards to Criteria 5. Specifically the MCHPC is requesting a short list of those persons buried at Twin Firs who the Cemetery District feels made a significant contribution to local history, and a description of what those contributions were. Motion seconded by Mr. Corliss, and passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 2:38.

There was a discussion of hosting a historic round table in conjunction with Heritage Month next May. It would be a gathering of historic preservation minded organizations to discuss their projects and share information about resources.

There was discussion about the idea of retroactive Heritage Grants. The question being could a grant be issued for a project that was already complete, or initiated? If so, how far back in time could this reach. Mr. MacSems will draft some language (that would be added to the Heritage Grant Guidelines) to bring back for discussion at a future meeting.

There was also discussion about creating an actual Heritage Grant application, which would make it easier for both the applicant and the MCHPC to quickly identify that all key information has been included in a grant request. Mr. MacSems agreed to create a draft Heritage Grant application to bring back to a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The MCHPC booth at Allyn Days seemed to be a huge success.

The MCHPC now has the complete final draft of the Matlock Area Reconnaissance-Level Survey. Ms Neil, who was absent, sent the group an e-mail with a short list of minor corrections that she feels need to be made. The only additional change made by the HPC was a request that a footnote be added to the Conclusions and Recommendations section mentioning that Mr. Ross Gallagher is a person with extensive first hand knowledge of the Simpson railroad, who should be interviewed if and when more investigation is done. Mr. Gallagher was in attendance at the beginning of the meeting, but had to leave before this agenda item came up. The MCHPC's expectation is that the final report will be received prior to the September 9th meeting, and that at that meeting the Commission will vote to accept the final document and vote to pay the final invoice. Ms. Neil will communicate the Commission's comments back to the contractor.

The two Summer 2015 Heritage Grants were approved by the BOCC on August 4th and signed by Chair Rick Calvin at the meeting. Mr. MacSems will contact the grantees to come in and sign the contract and take home a copy.

Regarding the Meet the Member's section of the MCHPC's webpage, a system has been worked out on how to include the Commission's ex-officio Tribal members. Mr. Bariekman is working on this.

The Mason County Comprehensive Plan update process was discussed. Chair Calvin will not be able to attend the next meeting of the Mason County Planning Advisory Commission which will be held on August 17th. The Commission asked Mr. MacSems to communicate the importance of the Commission's proposed amendments to the Historic Preservation element of the plan to DCD Director Barbara Adkins.

The Commission reviewed their monthly financial statement. Chair Calvin asked Mr. MacSems to ask DCD book keeper, Kathy Chaussee, when a copy of the MCHPC's 2016 draft budget will be available. Chair Calvin also gave Mr. MacSems a letter addressed to Director Adkins expressing the MCHPC's application for Kathy Chaussee's work in helping the MCHPC better manage and understand their finances.

Mr. Corliss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15. Mr. Carter seconded it. Passed unanimously, meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be on September 10th, 2015.