

Minutes
Mason County Historic Preservation Commission
January 14, 2016
Mason County Commissioners Chambers
411 N 5th Street
Shelton, WA 98584

Members Present: Marty Harrell, David Corliss, Leslie “Butch” Carter, Ed Huber and Stephanie Neil

Excused Members: Rick Calvin, Steve Rose, Michael MacSems

County Staff: Melissa Drewry

Guest: Randy Neatherlin, Chuck Smith, Unidentified Man from the Union City Masonic Temple, Bonnie Knight, Judy Scott, Kelly Frazier

I. Call to Order

Roll Call- The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Ms Harrell, who was acting chair. Roll call was also done at this time.

Review and Approve Minutes from December 10th meeting- Mr. Corliss addressed three issues he found:

- Page 3- (paragraph 3) Before leaving, Mr. Vrabel said that help is needed with the Mel’s Chevrolet Building ~~hte~~ that the county is now leasing.
- Page 4- (Website update) Mr. MacSems informed Mr. Huber that his photo ~~would be needed~~ needs to be taken in order to post to the HPC’s website.
- Mr. Corliss also noted that Mr. Huber's name was missing from the members present.

Mr. Carter made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Mr. Corliss. All in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence-

- Letter from BOCC dated 12/21 about \$10,000 being taken for the HPC's budget for repairs to Memorial Hall.
- A thank you from the Washington State Historical Society for renewing our membership.

Mr. Corliss also brought a copy of the North Bay Review which had a Thank you letter on page 3, and on page 4 there was an article about the Sargent Oyster House.

II. New Business

Announcements- Ms. Neal said that she and Mr. Calvin have been in touch regarding the Matlock Survey which she would discuss under old business.

2016 Election of Officers- Ms Neil asked if anybody would be interested in being Chair for the Historic Preservation Commission. The present members agreed that Mr. Calvin has done a great job and they would like him to remain Chair for 2016. Ms Neil made a motion to elect Rick Calvin as chair. Motion seconded by Mr. Carter. All in favor, motion passed.

The same question was asked regarding the Co-Chair position. Ms Harrell agreed that she could remain Co-Chair if nobody else stepped forward. Ms Neil made a motion to elect Marty Harrell as Co-Chair for the Historic Preservation Commission for 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. Carter. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Hearing-Historic Registry Application for Pioneer Cemetery- At 2:10 p.m. Ms Harrell closed the public meeting and opened the public hearing.

Chuck Smith spoke about the cemetery application and gave a brief history of how the property came to be owned by the Union City Masonic Temple Corporation. He said that they care for the area and make sure it is cleaned so people can get to it. Mr. Smith added that there is a large amount of damage to the area including tombstones which have been knocked down. He said their goal is to fix the road and find a monument company that can assist with the tombstones. Mr. Smith said the application has a list of who is buried at the cemetery and that many of the Mason County founders are at this location. He said that they have also filed with the Washington Department of Archaeology so they can be on the state registry.

Ms Neil said she liked the application but explained that cemeteries are difficult to get on registries. Within the checked areas of significance Ms Neil said that they do meet #9, but #8 is questionable due to the second portion of the question. #5 is usually associated with something like a house, not the burial site.

Mr. Huber said there was a notation that this location was not the original burial site and that the bodies were moved. An unknown gentleman also with the Union City Masonic Temple said that the original site was at a location that had been clear-cut. The first 7 bodies had actually slid down to the shore. By the time the 8th person was to be buried, around 1893, the new land had been acquired. The gentleman argued that #5 on the application should be applicable because of the fact that many of these people only have something small, such as a road name to remember them by when there should be more. Ms Neil agreed that there is a large concentration of well-known names. After further

discussion regarding #8 on the areas of significance, Ms Neil stated that she feels the application is sufficient and meets the following areas:

8. Is a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
9. Is a cemetery, which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or cultural patterns.

Mr. Huber agreed and had no objections to the application.

Ms Neil made a motion to recommend the Pioneer Cemetery to the Mason County Board of County Commissioners. Motion seconded by Mr. Huber. All in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Smith thanked the HPC and said that a grant application will more than likely be submitted by March.

Review of winter 2016 Heritage Grant Applications (2)-

North Bay Historical Society: Bonnie Knight, President of the North Bay Historical Society (NBHS), began by handing out photos of the finished shed from a previous grant. She once again thanked the HPC and said that she is currently using the shed to store items found in the Sargent Oyster House. Ms Knight said that the house will be placed over the water where an existing launch ramp sits. She reported that there is a large following and people are extremely interested in the project. Ms Knight said their main goal for the requested funds is to document community members who worked at the Sargent Oyster House. She said that hiring a professional to record the history will mean that the integrity of the stories are preserved. Mark Woytowich, who has worked with the NBHS before will be doing the filming. Mr. Huber asked if there was a certain list of people who would be interviewed. Ms Knight confirmed that there is a list and it is important to start the project due to the age of a few individuals. Mr. Huber questioned if the film would be edited because that would then be considered documentation. Oral history is not usually edited. Ms Knight said that some will be unedited for oral history and other sections may be edited. She added that full unedited tapes will be kept as a record.

Ms Harrell read concerns sent by Mr. Calvin via email. He voiced concern over the fact that the budget sent in with the application only identifies a previously accomplished project for a separate video. He also said that the scope of the project is vague with no supporting budget and no identified people to be interviewed. Ms Neil agreed that the lack of detail regarding the budget was vague. She asked Ms Knight what their timeline was in regards to beginning the project. Ms Knight said that they need to begin filming ASAP.

Mr. Huber voiced his support of the project, but also said that more detail and clarification is needed. Mason County Commissioner Randy Neatherlin, who was present, suggested tabling the hearing until February. Ms Harrell asked if Ms Knight

would be open to coming back with this information to the February meeting, to which she said yes.

Mr. Corliss made a motion to table application for the North Bay Historical Society until February. Motion seconded by Mr. Carter. All in favor, motion carried.

Port of Allyn: Judy Scott, Commissioner from the Port of Allyn talked about the Sargent Oyster House and how it will be placed over the water. She said that both the Army Corps of Engineers and Fish & Wildlife have said placing the house over water is acceptable. Mr. Huber asked if permits will be necessary for this move. Ms Scott said that permits will be needed and they will need a variance as well. Ms Neil asked what documents would be needed for the permit. Ms Scott said she believes they need a SEPA, an application for substantial development and building permit applications. Mr. Huber and Ms Neil both voiced concern regarding the lack of information on the application. Ms Scott was asked if she could also return in February with some more specific information. She said she could.

Mr. Carter made a motion to table the application for the Port of Allyn until February. Motion seconded by Mr. Huber. All in favor, motion passed.

Ms Harrell closed the public hearing at 3:24 p.m. [Note: The hearing was only supposed to be for the Historic Registry, not the grant applications]

Mr. Neatherlin spoke at this time praising the work the HPC does. He thanked them for being so meticulous in their work and said the Board of County Commissioners is very happy with them.

Review 12/21/15 Letter from BOCC Regarding Memorial Hall Improvements- Kelly Frazier from the Maintenance Department presented numerous photos from inside of the Memorial Hall. He said his goal is to install new lights on the outside ramp, new shades or window coverings, touch up painting on the interior, place sheetrock over the current wood paneling, painting the ceiling tiles, and resanding the floor. Mr. Corliss asked when the building was originally built. Mr. Frazier said the building was originally constructed in 1928 and the last time any updates were done was in the 1970's. Mr. Frazier asked if there were any restrictions on what he could update due to the historical status of the building. Mr. Huber asked if the ceiling rafters were original and if there was a drop ceiling. Mr. Frazier said the rafters are original and there is dropped ceiling on two sides. Ms Neil read a portion of an email from Mr. Calvin regarding the repairs and how they may not all connect with the use of HPC funds. Mr. Huber asked the following: Will the floors be kept in the original state? Will any electrical be done? Will the wainscoting be redone? Mr. Frazier stated that the floors will only be sanded and sealed so it will stay original. No actual electrical work will be done except LED lighting outside and he had planned to cover the wainscoting with sheetrock. Ms Neil and Mr. Huber both said covering the wainscoting is not ideal and wouldn't keep the historical integrity. Mr. Huber said that technically, placing sheetrock over the current wall could be considered preservation because nothing is being removed, just covered. A discussion was had

regarding photos of the building when it was first opened. Mr. Frazier said he is working with the museum on another project and would check to see if they had any photos. He said if any of the HPC members would like to take a tour he would be happy to take them over. At this time it was decided to approve the floor work. Mr. Frazier quoted the floor work to be at \$5,000.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve \$5,000 for work on the floor at the Memorial Hall. Motion seconded by Mr. Corliss. All in favor, motion passed.

CLG Commissioner Training-Tacoma-March 15, 2016- A discussion was had regarding availability. No members at this time can attend.

Other (if any) - None

Old Business

Historic Preservation Round Table Update (Rick) - Mr. Calvin's email stated that he has 5 more addresses to go and should have them wrapped up within a week.

Status of Pending Summer 2015 Heritage Grants- None

Website Update (if any) – Mr. Huber is still needing a photo for the website.

Comprehensive Plan Update (if any) - None

Future Historic Surveys Discussion (if any) - None

Outreach to Shelton Historic Preservation Commission Update- According to the email from Mr. Calvin, no response has been received at this time.

Other (if any) - Ms Neil said the letter has been drafted for the Matlock Survey Letters. Mr. Calvin reported via email, that the letters will go out within the week.

III. Other Commission Discussion

None

IV. Next Meeting Date February 11, 2016

V. Adjournment

Mr. Corliss made a motion to adjourn at 3:52 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Carter. All in favor, motion approved.