

# LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2015, 6:00 p.m.  
Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers

## **PRESENT**

**Commission:** Yasemin Alptekin, Kimberley Bauman (arrived 6:10), Shirley Binkley, Fernnell Dowell III (arrived 6:15), Erich Ebel, and Amber Granger.

**Excused:** Kristina Trebil

**Staff:** Lori Flemm, Parks & Recreation Director and Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator (left 7:05 p.m.)

**Historical Society:** Michael O'Keefe.

**Public:** James Holcomb (left at 7:14 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Erich Ebel, Vice Chair.

## **AGENDA**

The order of the agenda in the meeting was changed to go from the Museum Report in reverse order to accommodate Ms. Quinn Valcho's need to depart at 7 p.m.

## **STAFF / MUSEUM REPORT**

- a. Curator's Report. In lieu of the December report, Ms. Quinn Valcho gave a 2014 Lacey Museum annual report. The following comments/questions were made:
  - o The number of visitors in the first hour on Saturday may not be enough to warrant being open at that time. It would also be less confusing for visitors because the museum would open at the same time each day.
  - o Revenue sources were discussed, including the City's contributions
  - o Should we consider adding events or beefing up existing events to maximize our visitation?
  - o How can we further our partnership with the Nisqually tribe?
  - o The LHS or City Council might be interested in seeing this presentation.
  - o Could there be a reference point of another museum(s) to compare or benchmark against?

## **Ad Hoc COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Policy Ad Hoc Committee. Committee Chair, Kristina Trebil, was not present but Ms. Flemm said this was to be covered under Old Business.
- b. Celebrate Lacey Days Committee (July 3-July 11). Kimberley Bauman reported that the committee has not met. Discussion ensued about the museum event to be held during that time frame (to replace the August Afternoon at the Museum event). Ideas discussed included:
  - Murder mystery event
  - Ice cream social
  - Fundraiser vs. museum mission-oriented event
  - Family-oriented vs. adult event
  - Weeknight vs. weekend event
  - Promotional/marketing booth at the South Sound BBQ Festival and/or Fireworks event
  - Student writing competition with a prize

Discussion to continue next month. The decision on what day our event should be is tabled until we know what else is going on that week.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review Groom/Turner House addition. Ms. Flemm presented the property owner's proposal to improve the kitchen by adding a 2' x 4' (8 sf) addition on to the south side, including enlarging the two windows. Ms. Flemm met with the property owner and discussed expected concerns with him, including the look and materials of the windows, the appearance of the roof line, reusing the siding and/or maintaining the same appearance and material of the siding. He wants to keep the house on the historic register and is seeking our input. Ms. Flemm will speak to Kim Gant for her opinion on the project. This is only an introduction to the LHC; the formal process will not begin until an application is submitted with plans.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. LHC 2014 Work Plan Status.

**Motion carried: To approve the LHC 2014 Work Plan Status as written.**

- b. 2015 LHC Work Plan. A change was made to the more generic description: "Hold an event as part of Celebrate Lacey Days."

**Motion carried: To approve the LHC 2015 Work Plan as revised.**

- c. Review draft 2014 accomplishments. Statistics were updated to include the end of the year. The Rack Card was changed to be listed as completed instead of in progress.

**Motion carried: To approve the LHC 2014 Accomplishments & Noteworthy Achievements as revised.**

- d. Possible Future Uses for Lacey Museum/Russell Building. Ms. Flemm recapped the situation with the Russell building and the property deed requirement that the use of the building remain historical. Although a historical research facility was identified as the preferred option in the master plan, Ms. Quinn Valcho believes that two facilities would be challenging with a limited staff. Other options discussed included:
  - Re-creating the city hall inside and moving it to the new museum site
  - Developing the land with the memorial gardens into a park
  - Moving the building to the new museum site and turning it into a gift shop
  - Using the current building where it is for collections storage
  - Using the current building where it is as a gardening center including interpretation or programming that could be historical.
- e. Search for New Professional Commissioner. No applications were received for the vacant position. Out of three applications for the Park Board, one was interested in serving on the LHC. This was James Holcomb, who was present earlier in this meeting, but would not qualify as a professional member. After re-advertising, two people with professional experience have expressed interest. The position will be kept open until January 31<sup>st</sup>. City Council expects to appoint the new commissioner on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

- f. Commissioner Liaison to Thurston County Through the Decades. The liaison is expected to manage communications between the committee (headed by Lanny Weaver) and the LHC. Ms. Bauman volunteered to serve as liaison.

- g. Lacey Museum Policy Manual Part I Sections 3 and 4.

**Motion carried: To approve the two policies as written.**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- a. Ms. Quinn Valcho requested a change in the Walking Tour due to a conflict with the WaMA conference she would like to attend. After checking on other community events, the LHC would prefer June 13<sup>th</sup> followed by the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- b. The Commissioners are strongly encouraged to attend the February 5<sup>th</sup> Council Work Session where Ms. Bauman will present the LHC's 2014 accomplishments and the 2015 Work Plan.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A thank you letter was sent from staff to Kaufman Brothers for storing the cabin logs at no charge.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lacey Historical Society (LHS). Michael O'Keefe reported:

- Work is beginning on the LHS spring newsletter. Staff should get information to Shirley Dziedzic on events that they would like included.
- The theme for the annual meeting is historical plantings.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Storage of Cabin logs. The City was asked to vacate the storage area where the cabin logs have been stored. A new storage location was secured in northeast Lacey and they have been moved there. Ms. Flemm shared photographs of the logs, which don't appear to have deteriorated further. There was some debate among City staff over how to properly store them. Funding or in-kind support is being sought for an expert to review the logs for their preservation requirements. Ms. Bauman is going to pursue finding someone to donate their time to assist us as she knows many of the people who do this kind of work in the area. Ms. Binkley reported that the log cabin was possibly from the mid-1850s, but some architectural features seem too late for that. She is working on research to confirm the age and history of the cabin, and recently interviewed an elderly resident who recalls the cabin's past..
- b. March 4<sup>th</sup> CLG Training in Tacoma. Ms. Flemm will email the information to everyone.
- c. CLG Grant Application. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

### **MINUTES**

The December 17, 2014 minutes were approved as written and placed on record.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

- a. Miss Granger reported that she gave her first two presentations on January 13 to two 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Horizons Elementary (~72 participants) and she has another scheduled February 5<sup>th</sup> at Seven Oaks. Two more presentations are in process of being scheduled.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

No report.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- a. Ms. Flemm requested that Commissioners who have taken the Open Public Records Act training sign a form confirming they took it. The previous forms were misplaced.
- b. There is a junction called "The Hub" at the intersection of the Chehalis-Western Trail and the Lacey Woodland Trail. A kiosk will be located in the northeast corner. A 2' x 3' panel of historical information about the trail's past will be on the kiosk. Ms. Flemm and Ms. Quinn Valcho will be contributing to the project with historical pictures and text about the trail's history.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall.