



Minutes - Final - Not Approved

Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, March 28, 2016

6:30 PM

City Hall Small Conference Room

Special Meeting Time- Meeting starts following Site visit to 1609 24th Ave

1. Roll Call

The meeting began at 6:38 pm. [A site visit pre-ceeded the meeting].
Cam Hanna, Abe Ott, Doris Disbrow, Jonell Kenagy, and Gary Nordin were present. Adam Trimble staff was present. Also present was Hayat Norimine from the Daily News.

1a Approval of the Agenda

Approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

STAFF CONTACT:
SFASDFASDF

Attachments: [MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION](#)

A correction to p 3, th line was noted; complied not compiled. The minutes
were approved with corrections.

3. Constituent Comments

None.

4. Board Member Comments

Jonell Kenagy was curious if there was any brutalist architecture in Longview. She looked at the Hall of Justice and AWPPW hall. She shared photos of the waterworks building located at the (City Shop) and emphasized the need to save public works buildings. Jonell asked, is the commission interested starting the documentation of this building? Commissioners assented.

Doris Disbrow shared that she and staff had attended a workshop on a Heritage Capitol project grant from the state, with 1/3 funding matched through the state Capitol projects budget.

Abe Ott asked Doris, what is the status of the Squirrel Panel? Doris responded that edits are needed on the panel text. Abe reminded that the Commission still need information on the squirrel panel locations. Doris asked if the panels need to be final draft before presenting the COA? Yes, with Abe Ott suggesting that she could separate out the panel and review it separate. Sidewalk and placement could be settled later.

Cam Hanna noted the City website is lacking for Historic Preservation; Cam's name is spelled wrong, Abe is listed twice, no openings listed. He suggested starting an email for historic preservation. Staff noted some questions can be sent through the Ask Longview app.

5. Reports

Reports from Staff

Staff reported on the Heritage Capitol Projects grant training and the potential use for the grant to help with the RA Long park budget. Staff did a recap of three of the presentations from a recent training event held for commissioners. A notable presentation asked to start looking for mid-century architectural styles and building the local inventory up with these properties. The training also included examples of how to do design review and broke down the secretary of interior standards into main points.

The contractor says the new sign at the Monticello Hotel is final.

Staff noted that a recommendation was made for a new person be on the Commission

Project Longview

Cancelled.

Historic Preservation Month

Abe Ott reported three events have been planned for Historic Preservation Month:

The Cowlitz PUD is week 1

Millennium Bulk Terminals [Reynolds site] is Week 2

The Port of Longview will show slide in their auditorium week 3. Tours are going to occur in the summer.

Gary Nordin suggested advertising posters in an industrial style would be great!

Staff will advertise for the RA Long Award nominations for this year.

Historic Districts

The group re-capped the final public workshop on an Old West Side Historic District before City Council: Doris Disbrow was stunned by the negative comments. She pointed out that City Council did not turn down a national historic district; she went home and wrote a commentary for the paper but it won't get published. She was confused by the comment by mayor that the nomination should come from residents. Doris made public comments at the next City Council meeting that this was a resident initiated process but it,

started 10 years ago. Now we need expertise and a grant to pay for it. Cam Hanna thanked everyone for attending the meetings. He felt the educational tool was effective and those who are interested are empowered now. Those opposed can be disarmed with more information. Doris recalled that a resident offered to notarize letters opposed to a national register nomination. Cam Hanna felt it was unsettling to have council take an action after the meeting when it was stated that no action would be taken. Staff offered that a miscommunication by the Mayor to say no-decision when it is very common for Council to direct staff after a workshop; it was hard for the audience.

Next Steps- one option is to apply for the national nomination grant anyways; Doris Disbrow said there is concern the national nomination would be a conspiracy to get a local district.

Gary Nordin offered that he would love to have the whole city (or original plan for Longview) listed on the national Register. Cam Hanna asked if that is a strategy to get a grant to write a nomination for the whole city of Longview? Gary hoped the nomination could be for the plan for Longview, not each property in the City- it would be an awesome thing to present at the 100th anniversary of Longview. Doris Disbrow noted a national nomination would not protect it... she is in favor of the local district and preservation; Abe Ott noted that most road projects have federal dollars involved so it would protect the streets, ROW's. etc.

Doris Disbrow was asked by Michael Houser if Longview is going to write a grant. But he said; don't bother if the City Council is not supportive or has not shown formal support for the idea. Doris said she could nominate the neighborhood and try and write the nomination herself if there is no grant money or support from City Council.

Cam Hanna felt the fear factor was huge at the meeting. The City Council has the last word on local historic districts so they have a lot of control but there is a lot of fear in the residents who gave comments. Doris was recommended to read the book: Politics of historic districts. It is politics; and Doris said she was not prepared. These campaign dynamics occur in every city which goes through this. Abe Ott felt the whole process has been very interesting. He was not really certain what the involvement of the Commission was in this process with the workshops. Cam felt the HPC could have used a clearer goal of what the outcome of this process should have been. Cam still wants an annual workshop with Council and would like the City Council to know what is being worked on.

Doris Disbrow recalled that Julie (staff) used to have a presentation for Council after each phase but Adam never did that. Council lost the communication with HPC. Adam held the workshops for residents. Monica was in-between, Steve Langdon, then Adam. So Adam also didn't have the meetings with Council. She really thinks it would have been better to hold the meetings with Council. City Council has not been kept up to date on the inventory process.

Staff- we learned a lot about historic districts throughout the workshops- thank you to Abe Ott for the FAQ page. Abe said he was disappointed these things weren't figured out beforehand and felt really uncomfortable talking about things he didn't fully understand. He learned a lot about the SOIS which he works with frequently; but through the perspective of a homeowner. He

definitely emphasized with some of the comments given and the feelings of uncertainty.

Cam Hanna said he wanted to see what the heart and the season of the people was. It was very enlightening. The downtown district historic district idea was shot down and so was this one. Abe Ott noted the educational meetings turned into a campaign pretty quickly and he felt unprepared.

Cam Hanna felt Spencer and Katie were great, did the best they could but seemed like the residents responded to Michael and Kim better. Abe noted that when answers weren't given at a workshop it made people angry and he speculated the timing of this workshops within the national presidential primaries could have had something to do with the response we saw.

In regards to a potential grant application to nominate the neighborhood onto the National Historic Register, Gary Nordin felt we are going to have to rush, and we didn't do well with rushing this series. Cam Hanna asked if it hurts to wait a year? Doris Disbrow felt it does because she may try and write it herself. Gary and Abe Ott discussed what a national historic register nomination of the City of Longview would look like and what it would protect. Jonell Kenagy also asked why not recommend to City Council, as suggested by residents at the workshop, that the planned city of Longview be listed. Abe Ott felt rushing into a nomination now might erode more support. There is still not a good understanding of the difference between the two types of historic districts, national and local; it just may not be the right time to push this. Doris Disbrow noted there were 16 comments given at the Council workshop but we saw 60-70 people attending the three public workshops. Abe Ott noted it is probably scary when elected people are hearing angry residents on this topic. Cam Hanna reiterated that the state said don't bother applying without Council support and he agrees with Abe on waiting. Abe felt that on its face it could be offensive to a property owner, but owners have not quite been informed of all the scenarios to conclude that a historic district is in their best interest. Abe noted it took him a while to understand this concept and completely understands why people are upset.

Cam Hanna still believes there is a common understanding of the value of this place. Doris Disbrow asked how do we do this extra outreach and education? How to we keep this alive. Cam suggests keeping this on the agenda, doing openhouses, inviting residents to come meet again and become experts on the local district. Cam suggested adopting a list of what needs review and what doesn't to quell concerns. Abe seconded that we still need to get information out there; this workshop series laid bare how much is still unknown about the idea. Cam felt people don't get it is about preventing things from happening that most would agree are not good for the character of their neighborhood or property values.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Review of nomination of 1609 24th Ave to Longview Historic Register

The group noted the amazing passion for preservation by the homeowners.

8. Final Comments

Jonell noted the City Council had recently honored past service of individuals on City Boards and Commisisions including Bill Kasch and Tom Anderson.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjurned at 9:21 pm