



City of Longview

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.ci.longview.wa.us

Minutes - Final - Not Approved Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, March 23, 2015

5:30 PM

City Hall Small Conference Room

1. Roll Call

Mr. Hanna called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Bill Kasch, Doris Disbrow, Abe Ott, Gary Nordin, Jonell Day Kenagy and Tom Anderson were present. Staff, Adam Trimble and Curt Nedved were present. Jonell Kenagy left after 1 hour, Mr. Kasch and Mr. Anderson departed after 1 1/2 hours.

1a Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Hanna asked to move the un-finished business to the top of the agenda. Ms. Disbrow asked to add a new business item: CA 2015-2 to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ott made a motion to approve the minutes to approve. Jonell 2nd. Approved as presented. Staff noted two corrections.

3. Constituent Comments

4. Board Member Comments

Ms. Disbrow asked if a letter to the Dahls was ever sent out? or to the Chesleys? Staff asked for the original draft file so it could be completed. Have the Chesleys replaced their front windows?

Mr. Kasch announced he had secured \$3,000 from the tourism tax board to pay for re-doing historic walking tour brochures.

Abe Ott discussed a training held in Tacoma, which was very profitable. It helped to show how not to make emotional decisions, follow the standards and make meetings somewhat easier. Emotion is attached to history and is so hard to separate. This has hurt and helped applicants but damages the validity of decisions. He felt it be good to work through some of the examples with the group. Jonell kept one of the handouts.. Ms. Kenagy said the commission wants people to be informed, and we want them to know what we are looking for. Mr. Ott said we are not Seattle, we need to be more flexible but bestow confidence in the process. Mr. Hanna recalled that each decision needs to be based on findings that are rational and reasoned, justified. These decisions can be challenged.

Mr. Kasch talked to John Chilson recently and learned he wants to remove the Mercantile and Stylemasters buildings from the historic register. Staff

confirmed he had a similar conversation.

5. Reports

Reports from Staff

Mr. Trimble reported that this years CLG grant has gone awry. There were no bids on the project and it seems the amount requested was too low to attract services. Ms. Disbrow reminded staff that the neighborhood association meets on April 22nd and needs a program. Staff needs to contact John Cheslock as the board wants to know if they can have a presentation. Mr. Ott recalled that this grant was for workshops and next year is to be the nomination of the neighborhood. We don't need to think about it. Ms. Disbrow reiterated that this year was supposed to help find out who wants a historic district. Mr. Kasch asked, is this a dead horse? Is it worth pursuing? Mr. Kasch advocated to try for a historic district downtown. Mr. Hanna recalled that downtown was so close but one merchant basically defeated the ordinance. Mr. Kasch wants to try again and just do one or two blocks and try it. It's a very important thing and would make Longview a destination like Camas WA. Mr. Hanna suggested we want the whole City on the register, as a planned city. Abe Ott felt we can't stop with the Old West Side, we must continue. The consensus was to not hold a special meeting to provide direction for staff on next years grant.

Historic Preservation Month

Abe Ott will be giving a presentation on Thursday May 7th, at the Cowlitz County Museum. Staff will request nominations for the historic preservation award. Mr. Kasch anticipates having the presentation of this year's award at the Library, May 2nd. He had secured the Mayor to help present and would like to have anyone interested walk over to the Shay afterwards. On May 9th, Commissioner Dennis Weber will lead a walking tour of Downtown Longview, on May 16, a walking tour of RA Long Park will be followed by a behind the scenes tour of the Post Office.

Mr. Kasch said he is trying to purchase a banner to hang above Nichols Blvd. The Commission members voted to recommend the Community Development Director spend the remaining budget on the banner.

Historic Districts

Project Longview

Mr. Hanna reported that Project Longview had not met as the transition to the new City Manager takes place.

6. Old Business

CA 2015-1 Proposed demolition of non-historic rock wall at the Sunken Garden grotto.

Curt Nedved, Supervisor of the Longview Parks Maintenance has requested to demolish a rock wall erected at one point around a statue of the Virgin Mary, in the grotto of the Sunken Garden, adjacent to

Lake Sacajawea. The statue has long since been removed due to vandalism and the wall area has now become an encampment area. Due to accumulation of trash and other concerns about the area, the proposal is to remove the non-historic wall addition. Staff report attached. Please see pictures and letter provided.

Recommended action: Absent any effort to return the statue; motion to approve the request to remove the grotto wall and provide appropriate landscaping in its place.

The group discussed the grotto wall removal. Curt Nedved, Parks Superintendent presented the proposal. Mr Hanna asked to confirm the statue of the Virgin Mary cannot be replaced. Adam Trimble, staff, noted that legally, it is not trending in a direction for cities to take actions promoting religion, but staff has not had a discussion with the City attorney about his situation. Tom Anderson made a motion to remove the grotto wall and give the statue back to its owners. Ms. Disbrow, in discussion felt the City should keep statue. The motion failed. Mr. Anderson made a new motion, to adopt the staff recommendation "Absent any effort to return the statue; the motion is to approve the request to remove the grotto wall and provide appropriate landscaping in its place". Mr. Hanna asked what the preservation plan says for landscaping. Mr. Ott noted we may not need to follow plan if it was never implemented. Mr. Nedved noted the two trees existing are to be preserved. Mr. Hanna asked staff to present a plan for the landscaping when available. Curt Nedved determined the trees will not suffer if wall removed and he proposes to restore the grade. The motion carried with 4 affirmative votes, two inaudible. Doris Disbrow made another motion to require Parks to submit plan for landscaping that is compatible with the existing site a landscape design. The motion passed unanimously.

CA 2014-7 Squirrel statue sidewalk and interpretive panel- library lawn, Jefferson Square historic district
A SIDEWALK IS PROPOSED TO TIE INTO THE SHAY LOCOMOTIVE SIDEWALK PATH AND LEAD DOWN TO OLYMPIA WAY. AN INTERPRETIVE PANEL IS PROPOSED TO PROVIDE HISTORY ABOUT THE SQUIRREL STATUTE AND BRIDGES

Recommended Action: Review proposed sidewalk layout, concrete finishes, and other site features for the squirrel statue. Motion to approve or approve with conditions, or deny the application.

The group discussed a proposed sidewalk to lead to the squirrel statue. It is now fully funded. Ms. Disbrow reported they do not yet know where the panel is going so this would only be approval for the squirrel sidewalk. Mr. Ott said, we asked for a separate certificate because it was unclear what was included in the project. Mr. Nordin pointed out that the commission doesn't have a certificate of appropriateness so they could not take action tonight. The group tabled the item. Staff can call a special meeting if needed.

Proposal to re-name RA Long Park, RA Long Memorial Park.

7. New Business

CA 2015-2: Ms. Disbrow said she would like to install casement windows for her home for air circulation. The group discussed how to deal with the proposal. All the original windows were removed prior to listing. The window openings have not changed. Will review the window standards before next meeting and determine if a vinyl window can go back in or if it needs to be a wood or replica wood replacement window.

8. Final Comments

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm