

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION MINUTES

January 23, 2013

City Hall Council Chambers
313 Court Street
The Dalles, OR 97058

Conducted in a handicap accessible room.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair McNary called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

Robert McNary
Pat Smith
Dennis Davis

Staff present:

Carolyn Wood, City Councilor at Large
Dawn Marie Hert, Senior Planner
Garrett Chrostek, Administrative Fellow
Carole Trautman, Administrative Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Davis to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried unanimously, Gleason and Parker were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Davis to approve the December 12, 2012 minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously, Gleason and Parker were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEM – Interpretive Signage

Administrative Fellow Garrett Chrostek outlined the nature of the Interpretive Sign project. The intent of the project, Chrostek stated, is to develop multi-paneled interpretive signs that would display historical maps and other historical points of interest at such places as the Lewis and Clark Festival Area, the City dock, Riverfront Trail, etc. The Request for Proposal (RFP), Chrostek stated, will require bidders to submit design ideas and cost estimates. Chrostek presented some sample designs to the Commission that had already been considered by the City. The purpose of the meeting, Chrostek stated, was to gain ideas and comments from the Commissioners on sign themes and placement locations. Chrostek added that a volunteer base would be developed to work on project research and materials in order to keep project costs down.

As a matter of information, Councilor at Large Wood stated that the process was lengthy on selecting the sign design for the Historical Highway that included an arch feature with similar colors found along the highway. The Discovery Center, Wood said, selected the same simple arch design and colors to tie into the highway's design. Wood reported that the Riverfront Trail sign design was developed to connect into the Historic Highway design as well. Another consideration, Wood commented, was that the signage at Rock Fort was a National Parks Service style of sign found along the Oregon Trail as well as the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Senior Planner Hert reported that the City presented some suggested designs with the grant submittal to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with the intent of differentiating from the Historic Highway design--something of the City's own design with a little flare. The RFP bidders will be asked to base their design proposals off of the samples provided in the grant application. Hert clarified that the City staff and the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) would then make the final design decision. Hert emphasized that the final design plan would remain consistent at all locations.

Regarding funding, Hert reported that the SHPO grant and Chamber of Commerce funds were in place, and Administrative Fellow Chrostek was working on some other grant opportunities in order to fund a possible expansion of the project area and utilize QR codes.

Councilor at Large Wood commented that the signage would need to be durable enough to withstand the elements. Other signs have deteriorated and disappeared, Wood stated. Senior Planner Hert advised that the signs could have metal frames and panels that would be interchangeable in case of damage.

Vice Chair McNary inquired about the land use code requirements for sign placement. Senior Planner Hert said that the signs would be considered Community Interest signs that could be placed anywhere, such as City-owned property. Hert said it had previously been suggested to place one in the Lewis and Clark Festival Area and one at the dock area that would draw attention to Rock Fort, but no specific locations had been determined at this point in time.

Vice Chair McNary commented that the Interpretive Signs were geared towards pedestrians. Hert supported the thought by stating that the signs were meant for tourists, more specifically the cruise ship passengers. Hert also pointed out that one panel was designated for tribal information, and the tribes would be providing the narratives for that panel. The sample sign designs varied between two-sided, four-sided and multi-sided.

After further discussion the Commission and Staff listed the following possible location sites: Lewis and Clark Festival Area, the Dock, Riverfront Trail, the downtown City Park, Sorosis Park, and the boat basin.

The Commission and staff discussed the idea that there needed to be continuity in the sign designs throughout all locations so they would be identifiable and possibly tie into the arch design located at the Union Street undercrossing. Another suggestion was to utilize a combination of directional signs and informational, multi-paneled signs. Comments were also made of including information on a

panel listing historic sites of buildings that no longer exist, such as The Dalles Hotel and the Umatilla House.

Concerning research for signage content, Senior Planner Hert reported that a committee would be formed to gather research for the narratives. Discussion followed on potential committee members that would be able to contribute such as Sandy Bisset, John Lundell, Dan Spatz, and Mary Davis. Councilor Wood stated there was a good amount of documented research in Klindts' book, Win-Quatt.

Vice Chair McNary suggested making the Old Rooster tour available for pedestrian cruise ship passengers. Senior Planner Hert said that perhaps the tour map could be revamped and distributed. Hert indicated she would speak with Kuri Gill at SHPO regarding incorporating the walking tour into a future grant.

A timeline was discussed for the Interpretive Signs. Hert stated there was a grant deadline of 18 months, and the goal was to get the signs established by mid-summer of 2013. Administrative Fellow Chrostek said he hoped to have sign proposals available by next month's HLC meeting. Councilor Wood advised that some prospective grant opportunities could potentially be gained through the Oregon Trails Fund.

PIONEER CEMETERY

Senior Planner Hert reported that a potential project for the next Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission grant application might be the formation and creation of live biographical portrayals of people's lives that are buried in Pioneer Cemetery. Hert said she knew of a group of local theatrical people who would be interested in such a project. The portrayals could be presented during Historic Dalles Days or other community events.

COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith inquired about a garden window in an historical house located on the corner of 5th and Court. Smith advised that vinyl windows had been installed also. Senior Planner Hert said she would research the property to see if the work had been done recently or several years ago.

Commissioner Davis reported that Laura Comini, the new Chamber of Commerce Volunteers Coordinator, would be another good contact regarding the interpretive signage.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Trautman, Administrative Secretary.


Eric Gleason, Chair

Historic Landmarks Commission