

LACEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2016 6:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers

PRESENT

Commission: Erich Ebel, Joseph Govednik, Nathan Hunt (arrived 6:05 p.m.), Hunter Orcutt and Kristina Trebil.

Excused: Alan Tyler.

Staff: Erin Quinn Valcho.

Historical Society: Dick Yates.

Public: Shirley Binkley.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Erich Ebel, Chair.

AGENDA

One item was deleted from the agenda:

11d. Sue Falash-Director report

One item was added to the agenda:

8c. MAD Fest pins giveaway

MINUTES

The August 17, 2016 minutes were approved as written and put on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A moment for Lori Flemm. Ms. Quinn Valcho asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Ms. Flemm. Afterwards, several people commented on how lovely and touching her service was. There were nearly 400 people present. Mr. Govednik suggested that we use her life as an inspiration going forward.
- b. Updated contact sheet. Ms. Quinn Valcho distributed a new contact sheet. One correction was made.
- c. Work Plan review. The Commissioners reviewed and updated the work plan. The revised version will be presented at the October meeting.

Motion carried: To approve the changes to the 2016 Work Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Mr. Yates reported that the Lacey Historical Society is planning the annual meeting which will take place on September 27 and they hope for a good turnout. There was no September board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Letter from the Historical Commission to Mayor Ryder. Mr. Ebel noted that he had not yet had time to write the letter, but that he would do it soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Visit to Bush Homestead. Commissioners Govednik, Orcutt and Trebil reported on their visit to the Bush Homestead and noted that it was interesting and informative. Ms. Quinn Valcho said that they had found a trash dump site in the last days and it would be a feature they would like to revisit next year.
- b. Sunrise Lions Legacy project. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that a representative from the club contacted her about doing a legacy project, such as a bench at the museum. After some discussion, the Commission expressed strong preference for a project at the new museum site. A recommendation was to consider doing a marker near the site of the original depot.
- c. MADFest pins give away proposal. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that a large number of MADFest pins were returned to Ken Balsley because of duplication in the collection and he has offered back pins and suggests that they be given away at the museum. The Historical Commission, after discussion, decided that while they appreciate the offer, it could not be accepted due to both safety concerns and the ethics of the perception of giving away what could appear to be collections items. They suggest that he consider donating some to the Washington State Historical Society.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on Museum Project. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that it appeared that the Historical Commission will be taking a lead role in the planning process. It was suggested that Mr. Ebel and Ms. Quinn Valcho meet with City Manager, Scott Spence to discuss direction.

Motion carried: To form a subcommittee, “The New Lacey Museum Committee” with the goal of working cooperatively with City officials in the development of the new museum.

- b. Update on Director Search. Mr. Ebel reported that interviews were held on Monday, September 19th. A pool of 89 applicants had been reduced to 6 top candidates. Mr. Ebel accompanied 5 of the 6 candidates on a tour around town. Ms. Quinn Valcho participated in the staff panel. The pool will be narrowed again with a second round of interviews.
- c. Update on Commissioner Search. Ms. Quinn Valcho reported that the City has not received any applications for the Commissioner position. The Commission brainstormed ideas for promoting the post. They requested Ms. Quinn Valcho ask that those who advertise the vacancies be asked if we can expand the search and do some activities to promote them.
- d. Strategic Planning. This was previously discussed under other agenda items.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Policy/StEPs Committee Report. Ms. Trebil reported that the committee will be again in October, but will be lead by Ms. Quinn Valcho until she returns from her surgery.
- b. City of Lacey's 50th Anniversary Committee. Mr. Govednik reported that the committee discussed the exhibit progress and he shared the high quality reputation of the exhibit designer. Ms. Quinn Valcho said that the draft life-size panels were available for preview after the meeting.

STAFF/MUSEUM REPORT

Ms. Quinn Valcho reported for August:

- There were 43 walk-in visitors and attendance continues to surpass 2015 even though it has slowed down as it usually does in September. Four bookings have started to come in.
- 7 customer service requests completed and 6 open requests.
- Volunteers gave 41.75 volunteer hours, which is significantly less but the break has been welcome.
- Data entry: 77 records entered and 178 images added.
- Most of August was spent writing text and selecting and scanning images for the 50th anniversary exhibit.
- The 50th anniversary programs were taped and aired at Panorama TV.
- She was interviewed on Coffee With Ken and on Dick Pust's KXXO program.
- A fire alarm occurred but no fire was found. Response time was very fast.
- A chemical spray was applied to reduce dust in the parking lot
- Lodging Tax, Thurston County Heritage Grant and Nisqually Charitable Funds applications were completed.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Orcutt reported that he would like to give a presentation at a school assembly. The Commission will put it on next month's agenda.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Ebel reminded the Commission that we would be voting in December for Commission officers. He also encouraged Commissioners to attend the Council meeting on September 22.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall.