

# HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION MINUTES

May 26, 2010

City Hall Council Chambers  
313 Court Streets  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
Conducted in a handicap accessible room.

## CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gleason called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

## ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were present:

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| Eric Gleason |
| Bob McNary   |
| Dixie Parker |
| Dennis Davis |

The following Commissioners were absent:

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| Pat Smith |
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Staff present:

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| Dawn Hert, Associate Planner   |
| Brenda Green, Admin. Secretary |
| Carolyn Wood, City Councilor   |
| Nora Donovan, RARE Planner     |

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

McNary moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously; Smith absent.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Parker moved to approve the minutes of January 27, 2010 as submitted. Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously; Smith absent.

It was pointed out that on the minutes of February 24, 2010, under Commissioners present, John Hashizume was listed as present instead of Dennis Davis.

Parker moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2010 as modified. McNary seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously; Smith absent.

## STAFF COMMENTS:

Associate Planner Hert informed the Commission that a Certified Local Government Grant had been received. She explained that the \$4,350 will be used along with matching funds to pay staff time for working on the Pioneer Cemetery and Rock Fort, as well as for hiring a professional to create a Rock Fort Preservation and Maintenance Plan.

RARE Planner Donovan reported that the Request for Proposals went out for a headstone resetting workshop. She explained that they hope to find someone who will host a hands on workshop in order to get the headstones reset and collect data on both what is being done as well as what needs to be done.

Associate Planner Hert shared that Loyal Quackenbush would be fabricating a permanent railing for the stairs at Pioneer Cemetery to match the fencing.

RARE Planner Donovan stated that a Request for Proposal will be going out soon with the goal of creating a Preservation and Maintenance Plan for the Rock Fort site.

Associate Planner Hert explained that the Rock Fort site is currently owned by Wasco County but that they do not have any money for improvements. There was a general discussion about the history of Rock Fort ownership.

Councilor Wood informed the Commission that she will be leading a tour of the Rock Fort site on June 14, 2010 and asked if the large pile of weeds could be removed before that time. There was a general discussion in regards to the current condition of the site, and the things that could immediately be cleaned up. Commissioner McNary offered to haul the weeds away if he could get help with loading.

Staff and Commissioners discussed the lack of parking at the Rock Fort site, and alternate ways to get elderly people to the site.

### **PIONEER CEMETERY DISCUSSION**

Associate Planner Hert reported that Commissioner McNary had been working with Footscape Landscaping to get the cemetery cleaned up before the memorial dedication. She also reported that she was working with Tum-a-Lum lumber company to obtain additional fencing material.

Renee Briggs, Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society informed the Commission that the Memorial had arrived and had been placed. She gave thanks to The City of The Dalles for bringing in a larger boom truck in order to help lift the memorial over the fence, and for putting up a temporary railing at the stairs. Briggs reminded everyone that the Dedication would be on Monday, May 31, 2010 starting with a Veteran's salute at 10:15 a.m.

There was a general discussion about how long the group had been working to make the Memorial possible.

### **STAFF / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Associate Planner Hert informed the Commission that part of RARE Planner Donovan's responsibilities would be to begin reviewing the Historic Landmark Ordinances to see if they need to be revamped. Hert requested that the ordinance which defines the body an appeal is taken to, and where the final decision lies, be looked at carefully. Her concern was whether decisions made by the Historic Landmarks Commission can legally be appealed to City Council taking into consideration the professional qualifications that are required for a balance of the Historic Landmarks Commissioners.

Staff and Commissioners had a general discussion about possible options, how other entities handle appeals, what it means to be a Certified Local Government, and what the policy would like if the Certified Local Government did not exist.

Hert asked the Commissioners to look over the ordinances and let her know if there were any others that they felt needed to be modified or discussed.

Chair Gleason commented that he would like to see the demolition policy reworked. Associate Planner Hert stated that she would have RARE Planner Donovan begin looking into options for the demolition policy. There was a general discussion about how the policy currently works and what the concerns were.

Associate Planner Hert shared that another update that needs to be made to the ordinance is in regards to the fee structure.

Associate Planner Hert reported that Cory McCandliss, the property developer of the Joseph G. Wilson site had completed the commemorative marker, and that it was placed at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Clark Streets. She pointed out that the marker had been his idea, and that Rymmel Lovell had suggested publicizing what Mr. McCandliss had done. There was a general discussion about ways to accomplish that.

Commissioner Parker commented on the obelisk in the center of the roundabout. There was a general discussion about its historical value and the artwork that will be being added. Councilor Wood suggested having an article written to explain the obelisk's historical value as well as highlighting many of the upgrades that have been done to historical properties lately.

Associate Planner Hert shared the struggles that one local couple were having in regards to re-instating mail service after not receiving mail for an extended time due to home renovation. Hert described the post office's requirement that mail boxes be in the front yard versus Historical guidelines that discourage them. There was a general discussion about the implications of both options. Hert stated that she will continue to help work out a solution.

Commissioner McNary raised his concern regarding the amount of modifications that had been done to The Mint building. Staff and Commissioners discussed what had been modified and when the modifications had occurred. Associate Planner Hert stated that she would look into it further.

Chair Gleason commented that it looked like the parapet walls were almost completed at the Waldron Building. Associate Planner Hert responded yes, and then gave an update on what else was happening at the building, including a minor flooding issue from some roof runoff that had since been resolved.

There was a general discussion about some of the negative feelings residents have for spending money on preservation, which led to a discussion pointing out that preservation leads to more tourism and a higher quality of living. Councilor Wood pointed out that The Dalles has received recognition for being one of the top ten cities in the United States for preserving its history. Associate Planner Hert shared

that she had received a comment from an employee of SHPO that downtown The Dalles is one of the places that gives him goose bumps due to its preservation of history.

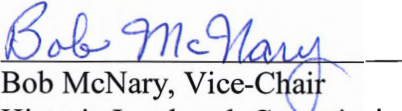
Associate Planner Hert informed the Commission that staff had been working on an office cleanup project which included putting numerous historical photos into frames and then putting them on display in the office. She shared that the goal was to work in partnership with Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center to periodically change the photo being displayed and have information available as to how people can obtain prints.

Commissioner McNary asked why the Shaker Village had been deleted from the goals list. There was a general discussion about the unsuccessful attempts that had been made by the Commission as well as numerous other groups, to help preserve the village. Councilor Wood suggested that the best thing that can be done now is to preserve it through pictures.

Chair Gleason gave an update on the chimney work that had been done to the Fort Dalles Museum. He stated that the window project was almost completed. Gleason also explained that a paint sample had been tested and that they now know that the original exterior color was sandy buff beige with chocolate brown for the trim and the vertical battens.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by Brenda Green, Administrative Secretary

  
Bob McNary, Vice-Chair  
Historic Landmark Commission