

# HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION MINUTES

January 27, 2010

City Hall Council Chambers  
313 Court Street  
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:

- Eric Gleason
- Dixie Parker
- Pat Smith
- Dennis Davis – incoming Commissioner

The following Commissioners were absent: Bob McNary

Staff present:

- Dawn Hert, Associate Planner
- City Councilor, Carolyn Wood
- Brenda Green, Admin. Secretary

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Gleason shared that under agenda item number six, the resolution number should read 115-10 rather than 115-09

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Parker moved to approve the minutes of October 28, 2009 as submitted. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously; McNary absent.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Historic Landmarks Commission Application #120-10 of Eric Gleason on behalf of Ft. Dalles Museum**, to restore the Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters to an appearance similar to original. The structure is located at 500 W 15<sup>th</sup>, and is further described as 1N 13E 4DB tax lot 10400. The historic name of this structure is Ft. Dalles Surgeon's Quarters. The property is classified as a primary structure, State Inventory #55.

Chair Gleason read the rules for conducting a public hearing. Gleason then declared a conflict of interest, stating that he wrote the application and is listed as the applicant. Commissioner Davis also

declared a conflict of interest explaining that he helped to write the grant for the project. There were no challenges from the audience. Chair Gleason opened the public hearing, asked for the Staff Report and then recused himself from the hearing; Commissioner Parker took over as acting chair.

Associate Planner Hert presented the Staff Report. She explained that the repairs were mostly cosmetic and general building maintenance. The only change to the building, and the reason for bringing it before the commission was in regards to two of the windows. Hert explained that the applicant was asking to completely restore two of the windows back to their original size and materials. She summarized by reporting that staff was in favor of the application pointing out that restoration and repair are all necessary for the preservation of the historic structure.

**Proponents:** Eric Gleason, 704 Case St, shared that the board of the Fort Dalles Museum had been in the process of maintaining the Surgeon's Quarters. He explained that all of the windows had the original sashes except for the two they are proposing to replace. Gleason discussed that the goal was to restore the windows by replicating new ones based off the oldest picture that the board had. He stated that the picture also showed shutters and that they are considering adding the shutters as well.

Councilor Wood asked if the windows would be replaced with a double pane for efficiency or if it would remain a single pane. Gleason replied that the windows would remain single pane due to the historic factor, but that they would have a layer of plastic added for UV protection for the purpose of protecting the historic collections inside the museum.

Gleason shared that the woman who would be doing the restoration work was the only person in Oregon who does that type of restoration. He informed the Commission that she would be describing the steps that she goes through on a blog that everyone can follow.

**Opponents:** none

Acting Chair Parker closed the public testimony portion of the hearing.

Commissioner Smith stated that she was in favor of the application.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve application HLC 120-10 with one condition of approval as submitted. Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried with Smith and Parker voting in favor, Davis and Gleason abstained, McNary absent.

Chair Gleason resumed his role as chairman.

**RESOLUTIONS** - Commissioner Smith moved to adopt Resolution 115-10 approving HLC 120-10. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously, McNary absent.

**2010 Goal Setting:**

Associate Planner Hert introduced the department's current Resource Assistant for Rural Development (RARE) planner; Nora Donovan. Donovan told the Commission about herself and the goals that Department Director Durow had laid out for her which included a survey of the downtown business

and property owners regarding the future of the downtown area, as well as the completion of one of the Historic Landmark Commission long term goals of designating other qualified areas as national historic districts. Hert stated that they will be meeting with Sally Donovan to get the process started of adding or expanding a historic district. She also shared that there might be a possibility of receiving a grant from SHPO.

There was a discussion about the previous efforts to establish additional historic districts and about the work completed by Sally Donovan. Chair Gleason talked about the previous effort to expand the downtown district to the Sunshine Mill area but also the barrier of how many non-historic structures are in between. Associate Planner Hert mentioned the possibility of a historic district around the mill as well as several other possibilities that will be looked into.

Councilor Wood notified the Commission that the city of The Dalles had been named number ten by True West Magazine for making an important contribution to preserving the past.

Associate Planner Hert directed the Commissioner's attention to the page listing the 2009 goals for the Historic Landmarks Commission. The commission went through each of the goals and discussed whether to delete, move the goal up or down or the have the goal remain in the same order. The updated goal list for 2010 is attached.

Associate Planner Hert described the potential projects that could be done at the Pioneer Cemetery including a hand railing, a potential retaining wall and some back filling. Councilor Wood confirmed that if there is a goal to get funding from the City for maintenance and small projects, then if the goal is on the short term list it would carry more weight. She pointed out that it would also be more likely to receive funds if there are matching funds form grants, and volunteer hours.

Councilor Wood shared that The Discovery Center had received a grant to transfer all of the Pioneer Boards into an electric format which would then make them accessible for viewing on line from their website. They plan to allow the pictures to be printed at a low level quality by website visitors but if a person would like the high level quality they will need to purchase them.

Commissioner Davis shared that The Fort Dalles Museum plans to piggyback on the Discovery Center's electronic picture library. It was discussed that the Historic Landmarks Commission should also establish a Historic Resource Center and a link to the Discovery Center on the City webpage with the overall goal of having all the different historical groups having access to the same historic photographs.

There was a discussion surrounding the goal of saving and completing the Lewis and Clark Memorial. Associate Planner Hert gave an update on Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation's goals surrounding the memorial and Thompson Park. Councilor Wood shared that the National Parks Service decided the memorial was not of significant enough value to put their effort into completing it. She added that if there was an effort to complete the memorial by completing the structure and putting a statue on top, it would only be a local effort. Chair Gleason described some of the history of the memorial and described what the final result was supposed to be. He also stated that there is a color

rendering of the final product as well as a model. The model is in the possession of Terry Harman. The decision of the Commission was to pursue local landmark status for the monument.

In regards to creating Historic Designs for Downtown, the Commission decided to move the goal up to Short Term Goal number one. Reasons cited included the need for a proactive plan as property owners or potential investors are looking into updating downtown properties, as well as the work being done by the current RARE planner.

Chair Gleason asked if it would be an appropriate time to update the current Historic Ordinances. Associate Planner Hert replied yes, there are several things that need to be reviewed including fees and the appeal process. Updating the ordinances was added as a goal under short term goals.

The long term goal of completing the Pioneer Cemetery monument was moved up to a short term goal due to the plan to have it finished in 2010. The long term goal of designating other qualified historic districts was also moved up to a short term goal due to the current access of having a RARE planner.

While discussing the Fort Dalles Museum goals, Commissioner Davis shared that he and his wife had purchased the property to the West of the Anderson barn with the intent to have a location for the museum to build a vehicle storage building. Once the building is completed the Davis' will transfer ownership to the museum.

#### **PIONEER CEMETERY DISCUSSION**

Renee Briggs with the Columbia Gorge Genealogical Society reported that the memorial had been ordered. They plan to have a dedication ceremony on Memorial Day Weekend. Briggs asked the Commission for their opinion of the type of ceremony to have. There was a general discussion about ceremony possibilities including; boy scouts, veterans or theatrical reenactments.

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

Councilor Wood shared that Rymmel Lovell had received permanent space at the Wahtonka campus for a museum display. Associate Planner Hert confirmed that the choir room was being used for that purpose. There was a general discussion about the class reunions being invited to see the display and that it will be open for various historic groups and events as well as anyone who is interested in seeing it can view it by calling Ms. Lovell for an appointment.

Councilor Wood shared that the goal of the Discovery Center is to be the clearing house rather than the receptacle for historical information. Their goal is to know where to disseminate the information and donations to. The display by Ms. Lovell is an example of what they would like to see happen.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.  
Submitted by Brenda Green, Administrative Secretary



Eric Gleason, Chair

Historic Landmark Commission

# Historic Landmarks Commission

## 2010 Goals

### Short Term Goals

1. Create Historic Designs for Downtown to aid in historic background research and support Main Street programs
2. Encourage restoration and preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery.
3. Provide educational assistance to help individual restorers by setting up a special assessment workshop.
4. Establish a Historic Resource Center/Site ie: Historic links on City Webpage.
5. Research grant opportunities to expand City's resources.
6. Update Historic Ordinance
7. Assist in saving and completing the Lewis and Clark Memorial and pursue a local landmark status.
8. Actively support Historic The Dalles Days.
9. Establish an Archaeology Testing Plan prior to First Street infill.
10. Support and encourage the preservation and continued use of The Dalles High School building.
11. Encourage restoration of the Waldron Drug/Gitchell Building.
12. Completion of monument in Pioneer Cemetery
13. Designate other qualified areas as national historic districts; specifically the East Gateway, The Dalles Bluff, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

### Long Term Goals

1. Encourage preservation and restoration of City Hall.
2. Maintain CLG status.
3. Support Civic Building restoration.
4. Continue to supply information on Historic Open Houses and encourage Open House visits during Historic Fort Dalles Days.
5. Continue to assist with historic plaque costs & availability.
6. Support and encourage the Fort Dalles Museum.
7. Encourage restoration and preservation of The Lewis and Clark Rock Fort.
8. Update Historic Inventories.



[View the Slideshow](#)

## Top 10 True Western Towns of 2010

**Given to towns that have made an important contribution to preserving their pasts.**

By: [TW Editors](#) 12/17/2009

### 10. THE DALLES, OREGON

As part of the state's 150th anniversary in 2009, The Dalles, Oregon—population 13,470 — put on an Oregon Statehood Wagon Train that traveled the 1869 Dalles Military Road through seven counties—a pretty impressive endeavor. Trail Boss Bill Vixie and his team led 140 riders from the starting point at Huntington, along the Snake River, on the 39-day journey. The Wasco County Historical Society organized the adventure in conjunction with its annual heritage celebration The Dalles Days.

At the end of the overland Oregon Trail, The Dalles is located along the banks of the Columbia River. One of the best ways to explore the city is through geocaching. The high-tech treasure hunting game is played by adventure seekers equipped with a GPS. Geocache sites were hidden all along the Oregon Statehood Wagon Train route. The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce also sponsored an "Amazing Race" geocache hunt in September, which visitors can still participate in; it takes you to historic landmarks and buildings in the downtown district. The coordinates for these adventures are found at [Geocaching.com](#); search for "The Dalles Chamber." The Dalles-Dash is a 12-cache password hunt, with each of the caches containing a password on the lid. When visitors find all 12 passwords, they can bring them to the Chamber of Commerce for a commemorative geocoin.

Another interactive way to enjoy the city's heritage is via talking art murals placed throughout historic downtown. The Dalles Mural Society created this art tour to share 10,000 years of local history, from the area's original American Indians, to the Lewis and Clark Expedition to Oregon Trail pioneers. Some of these historical murals "talk;" the keys for the voice box are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Numerous museums preserve the town's local heritage. The state's oldest historical museum, the Fort Dalles Museum, presents the legacy of the military fort in the original 1857 surgeon's quarters and offers pioneer artifacts at the 1895 Anderson Homestead. The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center focuses on the area's natural history and the river gorge carved by the Missoula Floods during the Ice Age. The 1859 Wasco County Courthouse offers historical artifacts from when the county was the largest in the nation (extending as far as Idaho and Montana).

The oldest home in town, the 1850 Rorick house built by a fort officer, is the headquarters for the Wasco County Historical Society. And The Dalles Fire Department Museum shares the history of the first fire department, which began here in 1859, through antique fire engines and firefighting gear.

The Dalles is also a starting point for an adventure to the terminus of the Oregon Trail in Oregon City. You can travel the alternate route, the 1846-1919 Barrow Road, which took pioneers around Mount Hood to the end of the Oregon Trail.

Historic local businesses include Klindt's Booksellers, first established in 1870 by the Nickelsen family and now the oldest continuous bookstore in operation, and the 1876 Baldwin Saloon, with a painted photograph of a young woman created by Wilbur Hayes in 1899 hanging near the early 1900s mahogany backbar—the piece won first place in the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905. One of the best local attractions is the camp site Rock Fort, where the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent six months, living downstream from the mouth of Mill Creek.

For finding interactive ways, whether it be through talking art murals, geocache hunts or a wagon train adventure, to present its 10,000 years of history, The Dalles kicks off our top 10 True Western Towns of 2010.

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### Comments (11)

Not only was Glenwood Springs a "rail town", they were also a "ferry town." My project (<http://southwestferryproject.com/>) has located at least one, maybe two, commercial ferry operations (Bennett's Ferry) in the Glenwood Springs area. There were ferry operations all across the west before and during the railroad period. They are slipping away from our collective memory. Our project hopes to put a stop to that memory loss.

posted by **Gary Cascio** on 2/03/10 @ 07:04 p.m.

What about Old Cowtown in Wichita, Kansas?

posted by **Marty** on 2/03/10 @ 07:01 p.m.

I was looking at the Top 10 Western Towns article. I noticed mention of the Torreon in Lincoln, New Mexico. I took a photo of the little fort and would like to share it. I am kind of new to this forum and I hope this works out OK.

[URL=<http://img708.imageshack.us/i/eltorreon.jpg/>][IMG]  
<http://img708.imageshack.us/img708/3904/eltorreon.jpg>[/IMG][URL]

posted by **Dennis Sumrak** on 2/03/10 @ 06:40 a.m.

Glad to see Dodge on your list. It's just too bad they had to open a casino.

posted by **Robin** on 1/21/10 @ 05:58 a.m.

Wow--I loved growing up in Fort Pierre SD and am thrilled to see that others recognize what the unique historic value of our little town. At age five, I got to be a "model" for the local museum, as a teenager I ran the hill to V-monument for training, grew up listening to the old timers tell endless stories of cattle drives and the talents of Casey Tibbs, and over the years it slowly dawned on me that our bend in the river was a true part of the entire US history as we stood where L & C stood! Thank you for recognizing our town's efforts to preserve our history. Come visit.

posted by **K** on 1/14/10 @ 06:40 p.m.