

**MINUTES**

**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING**

February 28, 2024  
4:00 p.m.

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
313 Court Street, The Dalles, Oregon 97058  
Via Zoom / Livestream via City Website

**PRESIDING:** Robert McNary, Chair

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Bev Eagy, Forust Ercole, Eric Gleason, one position vacant

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Museum Commission Representative Julie Reynolds

**OTHERS ABSENT:** City Councilor Scott Randall

**STAFF PRESENT:** Director Joshua Chandler, Associate Planner Kaitlyn Cook,  
Special Projects Coordinator Ann Moorhead, Secretary  
Paula Webb

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair McNary at 4:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Museum Commission Representative Reynolds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Gleason and seconded by Eagy to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 4/0; Eagy, Ercole, Gleason, and McNary voting in favor, none opposed, one position vacant.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Gleason and seconded by Eagy to approve the minutes of December 20, 2023 as written. The motion carried 4/0; Eagy, Ercole, Gleason, and McNary voting in favor, none opposed, one position vacant.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Richard Wolfe, 4752 Simonelli Rd, The Dalles*

Mr. Wolfe referred to The Dalles Municipal Code, Section 11.12.030 The Dalles Historic Landmarks Commission. This section says:

*“This Commission shall consist of six members; five of which are from the citizens at large entitled to one vote, one member of The Dalles/Wasco County Museum Commission (advisory - no vote)...”*

Mr. Wolfe said it seems the Commission is supporting Pioneer Cemetery, St. Peter’s Landmark, Fort Dalles Museum, The Dalles Art Center, Civic Auditorium and Waldron Drugs/Gitchell Building – and not people at large. He would like the Commission to choose people from the general public.

The railing on the park near the veterinary clinic has been broken for 40 years. It needs to be fixed.

Mr. Wolfe owns 36,000 hand-made bricks from the Tony’s building. He said he is the only person that shows up. He would like to be more involved.

Chair McNary thanked Mr. Wolfe for his comments.

Mr. Wolfe said a Forest Service archeologist visited Brewery Grade. The archeologist said it is the same as what he sees in the forest. In Mr. Wolfe’s opinion, the rock houses were a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright, a tollbooth and a fort. Grand central station for that part of town. It deserves to be looked at. Mr. Wolfe took a third generation high school friend, a rock mason, to that location. The friend commented the rock had been put up quickly. Mr. Wolfe believes this was due to a war with indigenous people.

This is an excellent opportunity to bring mapping to the town.

## **PRESENTATION**

Senior Planner Cook introduced Ann Moorhead, Special Projects Coordinator. Ms. Moorhead presented a brief history of the Gitchell Building and the future light projection project, Attachment 1.

Ms. Moorhead secured funding from the Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency and is now moving toward installation. The project will revitalize “ghost signs” remaining on the structure.

In response to Commissioner questions, Ms. Moorhead replied:

- The projector will use white light through colored plates.
- The projector will be mounted on one pole located in fill.
- Lewis & Clark Festival Park is closed dusk through dawn, but the projections will be visible from the parking lot, the highway, and First Street.
- The projector will be installed facing the west side of the building. The signs will fade in and out in chronological order.

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Chair McNary said the community needs to be exposed to the historic beauty of that building.

Museum Representative Reynolds said Mr. Winslow's work was included in an OPB field guide.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Senior Planner Cook said this is her last Commission meeting. She will pursue a Master's degree in Planning, hopefully at Portland State University. Her last day is March 15.

Director Chandler wished Senior Planner Cook the best of luck on her new adventure.

Chair McNary asked who would lead the Walking Tour. Planner Cook replied, the City of The Dalles managed the grant for the Historic Walking Tour. Sally Johnson, Director of The Dalles Art Center, will be the primary contact for the Historic Walking Tour.

Museum Representative Reynolds said Fort Dalles Museum will again be included in the cruise line's "Hop On, Hop Off" route. Commissioner Gleason did not think the Original Wasco County Courthouse was contacted regarding the route.

Director Chandler said the Blue Building [205 Washington Street] went through land use approval, and just received funding from the Urban Renewal Agency to assist in redevelopment. The Agency will provide approximately \$270,000 for façade and structural improvements, as well as payment of System Development Charges (SDCs) for an additional nine residential units.

Director Chandler will meet with Commissioner Gleason to discuss the First Street Project. After many stops and starts, the project is now on track to reconstruct First Street from Union Street to Laughlin Street. Commissioner Gleason added the railroad started as a portage railroad, from the steamboat landing down the middle of Main Street (now First Street) and up to Celilo. It was incorporated into the Transcontinental Line around 1882. The line ran down the middle of the street until 1978, when it was double-tracked and shifted to the north side of the street.

The Tony's site hazardous material has been abated and demolition is complete. The site is fenced temporarily until a development proposal is received. Staff hopes to, in April, lay out the structure of an RFP to move forward with redevelopment of the site.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chair McNary gifted the City a collection of old postcards received from the estate of Thelma Cox.

Commissioner Eagy said the lights around the Landmark were stolen; each light is over \$600 to replace.

Commissioner Gleason addressed Mr. Wolfe's concerns about the Commission shared during Public Comment. The ordinance [The Dalles Municipal Code, Chapter 11.12 Historic Resources] states the Commission will consist of representatives from the community. The Commission may not necessarily be representative of the community, but is a sample of the community willing to serve. Because we are a Certified Local Government, a portion of the Commission must be historic preservation professionals. While it may appear we have conflicts, or have multiple representations, those interests are set aside while service the Historic

Landmarks Commission. By ordinance, one member is a non-voting representative of the Museum Commission. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

Chair McNary asked that a copy of the ordinance be distributed to each Commissioner at the next meeting

Commissioner Ercole said the Riverfront Trail is gorgeous now.

Councilor Randall said the postcards are fascinating; one postcard had a three-cent stamp.

Chair McNary thanked Representative Reynolds for her contributions to the Commission.

Representative Reynolds said the Fort Dalles Museum is planning a festival of arts, crafts and antiques on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Coin appraisal and antiques evaluations will be available.

The Wasco County Cultural Trust awarded the Fort Dalles Museum funding to transcribe old Fort Dalles Historical Society minutes. That task is complete and now on the website, scanned and transcribed (in draft form). Representative Reynolds provided a lecture on this project.

The Fort Dalles Museum will open on March 25 this year, and remain open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Commissioner Gleason said Representative Reynolds' presentation on the history of saving Fort Dalles is available on the Original Wasco County Courthouse's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGYdaKIneyQ>.

Chair McNary noted Rodger Nichols is collecting oral histories. Chair McNary encouraged participation.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.


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*Meeting conducted in a room in compliance with ADA standards.*

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Submitted by/  
Paula Webb, Secretary  
Community Development Department

SIGNED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula Webb, Secretary

Forust Ercole, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula Webb, Secretary  
Community Development Department

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## GITCHELL BUILDING LIGHT PROJECTION PROJECT

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION



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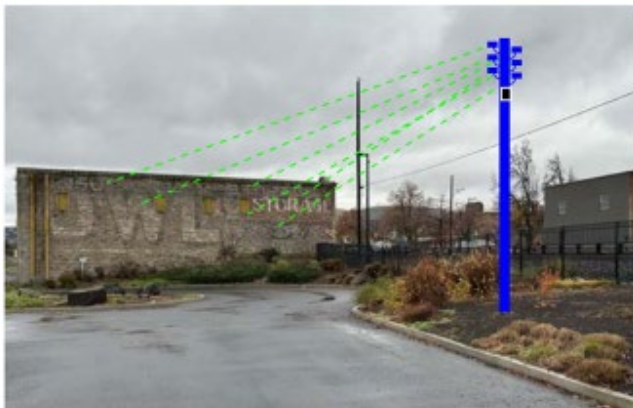
## THE OLDEST COMMERCIAL BUILDING





CURRENT WEST FACE

## INSTALLATION – PROJECTORS



Initial pole location mockup, 4 meters tall, pole mount attachments for 6x ROSCO ImageSpots.

- 4 M tall pole with six projectors
- Would cycle through the three layers of ghost signs:
  - The OWL Cigar sign
  - The red STORAGE sign
  - The black INSURANCE and STORAGE sign
- Would connect to the existing electrical line running through the landscaping for the street-side park lights

## INSTALLATION – INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE



- Bronze plaque
- Created by the same artist
- Located along pedestrian areas at Lewis and Clark Festival Park
- No sign on First Street by railroad tracks due to safety concerns

## PERMANENT LIGHT FIXTURE

- Uses a custom re-designed ghost sign printed onto custom templates which are backlit to project the image onto the wall.



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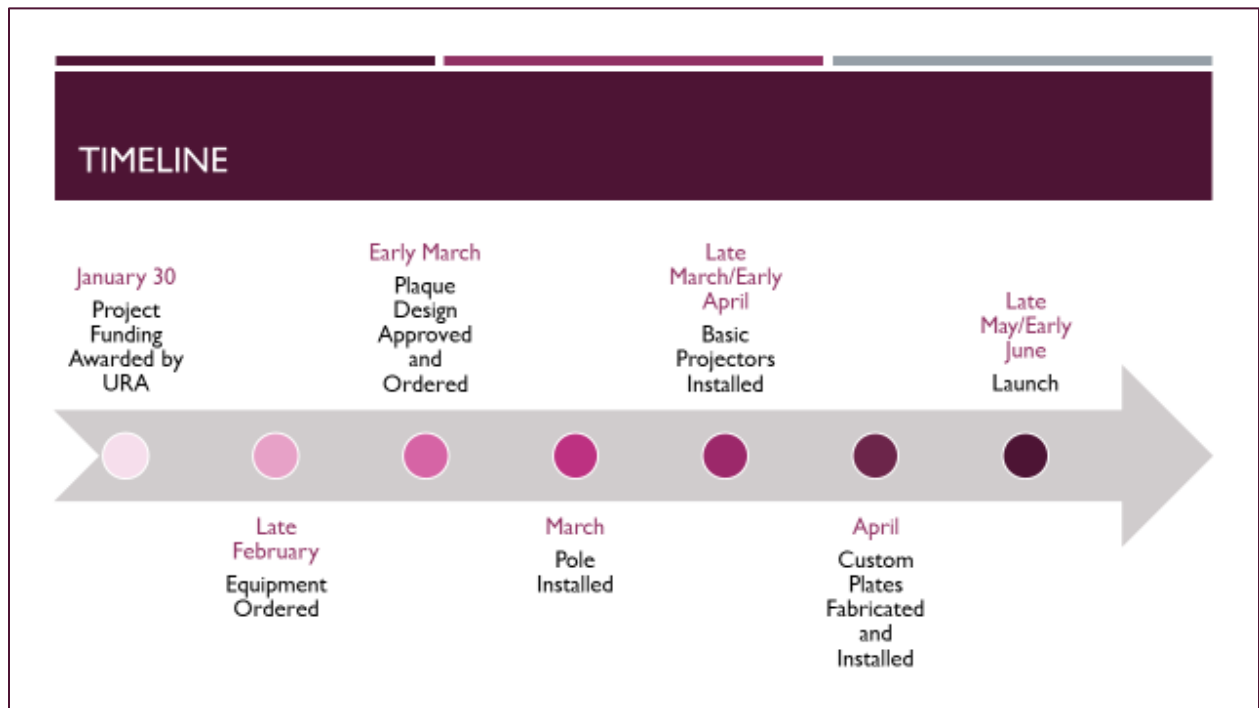
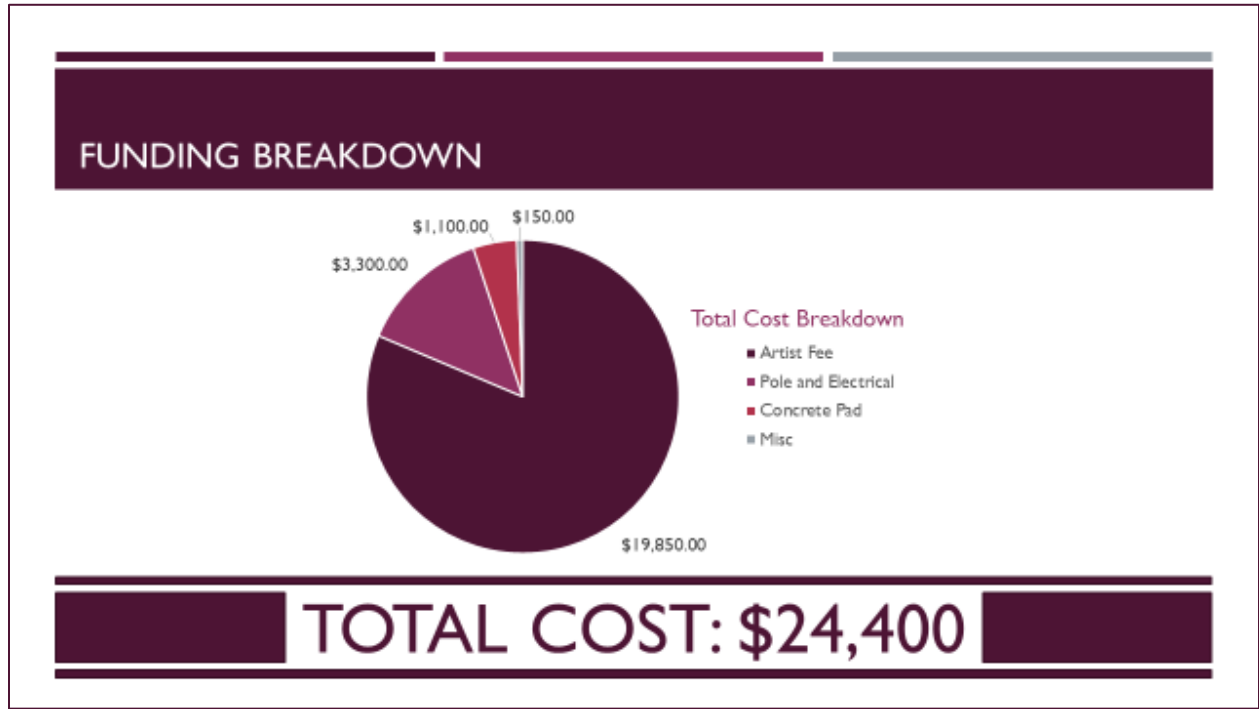


## PERMANENT LIGHT FIXTURE

- Installation would bring the signs back to life in the dark, transforming it from what it is (below) to a brilliant display of what it had been (right)









**QUESTIONS?**