



CLARK COUNTY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor
Vancouver, WA
www.clark.wa.gov/planning/historic

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.
6th Floor Hearing Room, 1300 Franklin St., Vancouver, WA

These are summary, not verbatim, minutes. Audio recordings are available on the Historic Preservation Commission's page at www.clark.wa.gov/community-planning/historic-preservation-commission.

Members Present:	Julie Bohn, Sean Denniston, Andy Gregg, Michelle Kapitanovich, and Donald Trost
Members Absent:	Roch Manley and Alex Gall
Staff Present:	Sharon Lumbantobing and Jacqui Kamp (Clark County)
Guests:	Ryan Lopossa, John Collum, Rob Freed, Holly Chamberlain

- 1. Roll Call & Introductions:** Commission members and staff introduced themselves.
- 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2020.** Kapitanovich made a motion to approve the minutes and Trost seconded. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
- 3. Fort Vancouver Parking Lot and 5th Street Improvements** – Ryan Lopossa (Streets and Transportation Manager for the City of Vancouver) introduced the Fort Vancouver Parking Lot and 5th Street improvements using a Federal Lands Access Project (FLAP) grant in partnership with the National Park Service. The NPS wants to remove the existing parking lot in front of the fort and enlarge an empty nearby lot for use as a parking lot. For the south side of 5th street along an existing strip of concrete, the plan is to create a multi-use path for bikers and pedestrians. The FLAP grant is being administered through the Western Federal Lands Highway that has offices nearby in the Fort Vancouver campus. The 5th street resurfacing work will be the city's contribution to the project. There was a question as to whether there was a plan to connect the pathway that leads to and from the land bridge to the parking lot. Ryan believes it will, but will double check. The HPC would like to be a participant of any Section 106 reviews.
- 4. Waterfront Gateway Project, City of Vancouver** – John Collum from the City of Vancouver gave a presentation on the city's plans for this area, 17 parcels spread over 6.4 acres of city-owned property (see powerpoint) that will link downtown core with waterfront development. It's currently all undeveloped land and parking lots just south of city hall. This work includes a cultural resource evaluation of the Webber Building, which is located on one of the parcels next



to the convention center. Information is being gathered about the building and no decisions have been made as to what will be done with building. A current tenant has a lease on the building through 2022. A question was asked if anyone on the CCRA has a background in cultural and historic preservation. Collum answered that one person does have a background who is on the board of The Historic Trust. The HPC stated that the HPC can play an important role in helping to ensure that new buildings in this area are developed that are unique to Vancouver. The HPC asked if there is any examination of cultural resources more broadly in Heritage Overlay District 2 and what can be highlighted and how this can impact development in this area? The Vancouver city vision process will inform this. The HPC has seen that when historic and cultural features aren't considered early on, they will get left out. Most new development that has occurred downtown has not reinforced its connections to the historic development. Is there a way for the HPC to participate more collaboratively and formally in this process so that we can bring connections to the historic area? Collum stated that he intends to keep the HPC in the know. The HPC can sign up for updates on the online portal (BeHeardVancouver). We are happy to have HPC members attend CCRA board meetings. We plan to have the board meetings televised on CCTV starting in March. The HPC should stay engaged when we go through the developer selection process and the community involvement process. Note: historicpreservation@clark.wa.gov is now registered on BeHeardVancouver and staff will forward any emails to HPC members. But HPC members can also individually register on BeHeardVancouver.

5. **New Business**

- The March 4, 2020 HPC meeting will include two DAHP presentations: one on the State Heritage Preservation Plan and one on training on the SEPA process for Historic Preservation Commission members and city and county staff. An email invitation will be sent to city, county and tribal staff inviting them to attend.
- A motion was made to start the March 4 HPC meeting at 5:30 to allow more time to address any other business items and the motion passed unanimously. Staff will send out legal notice to notify the public of this change to the start time of the March meeting.
- 2020 CLG grant application window is open from February 4, 2020 through the end of April. Lumbantobing stated that the amount of grant funding available is \$110,000 and no matching grant is required. Staff shared DAHP's five priorities for funding. The HPC asked staff to prepare two draft grant applications on the topics of: 1) historical context statements for cultural resource inventory and 2) a survey of unreinforced masonry buildings and retrofitting cultural and historic resources to minimize damage from a disaster event. The HPC will evaluate and decide at the March HPC meeting, which grant application to submit.
- February 13, 2020, The City of Vancouver Building and Fire Code Commission will hold a public hearing at City Hall on an application of VMC Title 17.32 as it relates to unfit structures, specifically to consider engineering reports and related documents for the vacant Boiler and Laundry Buildings at the Providence Academy.

6. **Old Business**

- **HPC's response to City of Vancouver's Providence Academy letter.** The HPC members edited the letter and signed it.

- **Update on 2019 Historic Promotion Grants – Final Project Reports.** Lumbantobing posted the HPG recipient's final reports online for HPC members to review. All HPG grants were executed as planned except for the CCHM grant which was not able to utilize their funds this year.
- **Demolition Committee Update.** This agenda item was not discussed and will be moved to the April HPC meeting.

7. Public Comment:

- Holly Chamberlain announced that Preservation Advocacy Week (aka Lobby Day) is held in Washington DC in March every year. The Washington Trust is going to feature the Blair Building on Lobby Day as an example of how Special Valuation leads to tangible benefits from historic preservation and bringing life to underutilized buildings. The Blair Building in downtown Washougal applied for and received Special Valuation in 2018.
- Rob Freed gave a suggestion to apply for CLG grant funding for the planning phase for the interpretive trail at the Heritage Farm or starting plans for restoring some of the buildings at the Heritage Farm. Freed also commented that the Webber Building is one of the last industrial buildings in the city and he is concerned that the expansion of the convention center could threaten the Webber Building. Freed urged the HPC to encourage the city to maintain the structure.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.