



proud past, promising future

**CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Meeting Held: September 2, 2014

Members Present:	Sarah Fox, Robert Hinds, Alex Gall, Shell McKedy, Roch Manley
Members Excused:	
Staff Present:	Jacqui Kamp, Clark County, Jon Wagner and Jan Bader (City of Vancouver)
Volunteers:	
Guests:	Holly Chamberlain and Chris Philbrook (Meyer Farm)

- I. **Roll Call & Introductions:** All were in attendance.
- II. **August 5, 2014 Minutes Approval:** Shell motioned to approve the minutes, Alex seconded. All were in favor.
- III. **Introduction of Clark County Historical Museum Executive Director:** Jan Bader introduced Katie Anderson as the new Executive Director of the Historical Museum. The group discussed a potential future meeting of the commission at the museum as well as taking one of the walking tours of downtown. Welcome Katie to Clark County!

**IV. Public Hearing**

- **Nomination to the Clark County Heritage Register – Heye and Eva Meyer House**  
Staff noted that the Heye and Eva Meyer House is located at 13705 NE 50th Avenue, Vancouver (Tax Assessor Parcel # 198856000). The site is being nominated to the Clark County Heritage Register (CCHR). The nomination includes the house and its associated outbuildings, which include the barn, garage, pumphouse, workshop, storage shed and smokehouse. There is also a non-contributing chicken coop.

The property is located in unincorporated Clark County within the Vancouver Urban Growth Boundary. The nominated property consists of three acres that are representative of the 52 acres originally owned by farmers, Heye and Eva Meyer, and contain the core of buildings associated with the couple. This area of the county is currently a mix of rural and more intensively developed residential.

The Heye and Eva Meyer House and related buildings are significant for their associations with the Meyers, who were very active with major Clark County institutions such as the Grange, Clark Public Utilities and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District during critical decision-making and growth periods.

The house and outbuildings also represent the historically prevalent but increasingly rare rural landscape of Clark County therefore has strong integrity, specifically of feeling, location, design, and association.

Staff recommended approval of listing of the Heye and Eva Meyer House to the Clark County Heritage Register based on the findings.

The commission heard from the property's representative, Mrs. Holly Chamberlain as well as a neighbor and former occupant of the property. The commission asked questions of both and deliberated.

- Staff questioned the commission on whether they had a preference for the naming convention of the property. Commissioner Fox stated that she would go with "farm" instead of "house" so that it was clear to people that may visit in the future, "farm" provides a better property description.
- Commissioner Manley asked whether there was precedent for that type of property name. Jacqui stated that there was a farmstead on the register, but was demolished a few years back. Commissioner Hinds stated that there is also the Poor Farm and Commissioner Fox stated that the Pomeroy Farm is also on the register.
- Commissioner Manley made a motion to approve the nomination with the historic name, the Heye and Eva Meyer Farm, which was seconded by Commissioner McKedy. All were in favor.

*For more details – see Findings of Fact – contact Community Planning for document.*

**V. New Business and Announcements:**

- Open Government Training Reminder: Jan reminded the commission members of the open government training opportunities provided by the City – either online or in person. Jan will re-send the email with the dates/times and information.
- Jan and Jacqui will be checking in with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on scheduling training with the commission while their staff is in Vancouver for another event. The commission may need to move their October meeting to Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Jacqui and Jan will find out more and get back to the commission.
- Shell asked if the commission could use the WI-FI in the room. Jacqui will check with the office staff and get back to the commission.

**VI. Old Business & Updates**

- BNSF Bridge-Camas: The commission discussed mitigation ideas for the removal and replacement of the BNSF Bridge over the Washougal River. Robert suggests a HAER level I or Level II documentation. Shell asked about the demolition costs and whether we could repurpose the pin/truss element. Katie Anderson of the CCHM suggested the production of an educational video to show the transition from the old bridge to the new bridge. There was also discussion about a larger railroad history context and the fact that many of these bridges may be proposed for replacement throughout the state. The commission wanted to find out how many permits have been submitted to the Corps of Engineers.

To repurpose a piece of the bridge, there would need to be somewhere it would be housed. Where would that be? Some ideas included contacting the Heritage Railroad museum in Portland, the Berk museum in Seattle or Chelatchie Prairie.

The commission decided that it was important to submit a list of ideas soon as the clock is ticking. Jacqui will compose a letter and have everyone review before submitting. The mitigation ideas are to include:

1. HAER documentation and possible statewide context documentation

2. Video documentation – telling history of railroad, the pin truss design, and development of Clark County and the removal and replacement of the bridge
  3. Keep an artifact of the pin truss with funding of removal, transfer, storage and endowment
  4. Open to other suggestions that dovetail with the commission’s thought process
- Downtown Vancouver Interpretive Panels: Jan reviewed the draft interpretive panels with the commission that included the Slocum House, Esther Short Park, Kiggins Theater and the Witness Tree. Suggestions included a highlight of Hilborn or somehow directing people to another resource to find more information on him. Jan will provide the feedback to the designers and keep the commission updated.
  - Clark County Comprehensive Plan: Jacqui briefed the commission on the Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and the changes to the Historic chapter. Please review and provide feedback. There was a suggestion to have DAHP review. Jacqui will forward the chapter to them for review.
  - Photographer: Jan has access to a photographer for a little bit longer so if there are any photos that we need taken of historic sites, please get her a list.
  - Historic sites mobile app: Jacqui updated the commission on the potential partnership with Washington State University’s Creative Media and Digital Culture program for the development of the mobile app. She is still waiting for the grant paperwork form the state. She will keep the commission updated on the project.

**VII. Public Comment - None**