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CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

Meeting Held: August 1, 2017

(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.)

Member Present:	Robert Hinds, Mark Pelletier, Sarah Fox, Roch Manley, Sean Denniston, and Alex Gall
Members Excused:	Rob Heaney
Staff Present:	Jacqui Kamp (Clark County); Jan Bader (City of Vancouver)
Volunteers:	None
Guests:	Patrick Lee, Rob Freed, Nancy McCarter, Charles Simmons, and Lisa Bayautet

- I. **Roll Call & Introductions:** Commission members and staff introduced themselves.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:**
Alex made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Sean seconded. All were in favor.

- III. **Old Business and Updates:**
 - 2018 CLG award (Poor Farm Preservation Plan): The CLG grant was awarded for the Poor Farm Preservation Plan in the amount of \$17,000 (\$20,000 had been requested). Staff is awaiting receipt of the grant agreement from the state and then will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant to assist with this work. The Preservation Plan will help the county assess the condition and potential uses of each building and will have a public involvement component.
 - Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery Fence update and next steps: Pat Lee, Public Works Parks Department, gave an update on the July 18th Heritage Farm Advisory Board meeting. The Advisory Board heard public comment and finalized the decision to place the chain link fence on the western boundary of the Farm. The Parks Department was awarded a Historic Promotions Grant, which included funding for a split rail fence to demarcate the boundary of the cemetery and funding to move the chain link fence, which currently bisects the cemetery, to the western border of the farm in order to fully enclose and protect the cemetery. In March, neighbors of the Poor Farm along its western boundary made inquiries about the fence placement. The Poor Farm Advisory Board convened a public meeting on May 4 at which people testified that the relocation of the chain link fence was a concern. At the May 4 meeting, two options emerged: 1) move the fence to the western boundary of the Farm and 2) move the fence east towards the interior of the Farm. The other issue raised at the May 4 meeting pertained

to the type of perimeter fence around the cemetery. While the split rail fence is what was budgeted and included in the Historic Promotions Grant, another suggestion was to use stone monuments at the borders only. At the June 18th meeting, the Poor Farm Advisory Board decided to move the chain link fence to the western property line, with the provision that some type of privacy screening be provided to take into consideration the concerns of abutting property owners. Most of the testimony at the July 18th Poor Farm Advisory Board meeting pertained to the perimeter chain link fence and not to the design of the cemetery split rail fence.

The county will submit a final Certificate of Appropriateness for the split rail fence to the Historic Preservation Commission, which will be reviewed on September 5th, at which time there will be a public hearing.

At the June 6th Historic Preservation Commission meeting, commissioners discussed the importance of not faking history by using a split rail fence. Rob Freed of the Poor Farm Advisory Board stated that while the split rail isn't appropriate to the time of the burials, it would protect the integrity of the cemetery and keep people and vehicles out of the cemetery. The cemetery is 300 ft by 150 ft and stone markers at the corners might not effectively delineate the cemetery boundaries of such large area. Sean mentioned that in the Certificate of Appropriateness the Farm Advisory Board should: 1) develop a practical plan to address what happens if shallow graves are affected when the fence is constructed. 2) post a sign on or near the cemetery fence to let people know that the fence was not originally part of the cemetery, and 3) include a discussion of why other types of fence treatments (e.g., vegetative or rock border, or stone corner markers) was deemed unfeasible due to budget, maintenance or other constraints.

- Section 106 – Cedar Village Barn Update: Sharon explained that the National Historic Preservation Act contains a Section 106 that requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of undertakings on historic properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. Cedar Village is a residential development in Battle Ground undergoing the Section 106 review process led by the US Army Corps of Engineers. A historic 1913 Dutch-style barn on the property had been eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. After a winter storm, the barn was deemed by the property owner to be beyond repair. The Section 106 review committee agreed that the demolition of the barn was unavoidable, but required mitigation measures as follows: 1) salvage and reuse of the barn materials for restoration and preservation of other historic barns in Washington, 2) construction of a gazebo on-site using salvaged barn materials and including an interpretive panel describing the tribal uses of the land and the barn and farm's historical significance. An MOU will be signed by reviewing parties, including Clark County's Community Planning Department. The Historic Preservation Commission should submit any comments on the MOU to Sharon by Friday, August 4.

- 2018 Historical Promotion Grant Subcommittee. The grant application period is now open. Sept 15 is the submittal deadline. The Historic Preservation Commission needs to convene a subcommittee to review the grants and make recommendations to the Board of County Councilors in October. Nominations for the 2018 HPG subcommittee are: Alex Gall, Sean Denniston and Mark Pelletier. Pat Jolotta will also be invited to join the subcommittee.
- National Historic Register Plaques: Sean and Sharon are working to develop a table which will be shared with the HPC in September to prioritize sites to receive plaques in 2018.

IV. New Business and Announcements:

- Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA): Staff will be sending the link to the OPMA training that HPC members need to do and certify that they have completed the training.
- City Council workshop scheduling: Jan suggested that the HPC give occasional presentations to update the County Council and all the city councils on the activities of the HPC. The HPC members agreed. Staff will prepare a draft PowerPoint presentation and start scheduling meetings with all the councils. The HPC members will take turns giving these presentations with a staff person. Staff will share meeting dates with the HPC, once the meetings have been scheduled with the councils.
- City of Vancouver's Art and Culture Plan will include a historic plan. There is a committee being formed to develop this plan and involvement on the committee requires a time commitment of 3-4 two-hour meetings. One HPC member is invited to participate on the committee and needs to let Jan Bader know this week if they want to be on this committee.

V. Public Comment:

- Lisa Bayautet commented on the public notification process of the cemetery fence. She appreciates the public process and understands the need to place the chain link fence along the western border of the Poor Farm to secure its borders. She is concerned about the historical aspects of the split rail fence and had understood from the May Poor Farm Advisory Board meeting that the stone boundary markers for demarcating the cemetery corners had been resolved. Robert Hinds and Jacqui Kamp restated that there will be a public hearing at the Historic Preservation Commission on September 5th to approve or disapprove the Certificate of Appropriateness of the Poor Farm cemetery fence. Robert stated that the HPC will focus its review of the cemetery fence on what is appropriate for the site and will take public comment into consideration. Jacqui stated that the public hearing will be duly advertised to the neighbors. Lisa restated her concerns that the split rail fence is not historically appropriate and that it not be erected along the chain link fence.
 - Nancy McCarter, a historic property owner in the Hough neighborhood, introduced herself.

- Charles Simmons introduced himself.
- Robert Freed is very concerned about the demolition of the smokestack and laundry at the Providence Academy. The context of the outbuildings is important. It is the most significant historic site outside of Fort Vancouver and the smokestack is a landmark in the community. Adaptive reuse of the buildings needs to be considered before demolition takes place. The HPC members confirmed that at their June meeting they had requested that the buildings be preserved to the greatest extent possible, and to at least undergo mitigation. The HPC asked if the demolition requires public notice, a certificate of approval, and a SEPA process. Staff will do more research on this.

VI. Adjournment: Roch made a motion to adjourn. Alex seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.