



CITY OF REDMOND
Community Development Department

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REDMOND HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION Minutes

Thursday, May 9, 2013

City Hall Conference Room A, 716 SW Evergreen Avenue, Redmond, Oregon

Commissioners Present: Chair Jack Nelson, Vice-Chair Phyllis Sturza, Jane Schroeder, Jo Anne Sutherland, Trish Pinkerton

City Staff: Heather Richards, *Community Development Director*; Jaclyn Abslag, *Administrative Assistant*; Cameron Prow, *TYPE-Write II*

Visitors: Ginny McPherson, *Council Liaison*; Leslie Pugmire Hole, *Redmond Spokesman*; Lee Barnett; Roger Lee

(scribe CP's note: The minutes were created from an audio record and notes taken at the meeting. The three digits after the motion title shows the number of Commissioners voting in favor/against/abstaining.)

CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nelson opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Prow called the roll and established that the four Commissioners present constituted a quorum. Commissioner Schroeder arrived at 9:19 a.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Old Redmond Schoolhouse

Mr. Lee summarized his background in moving and preserving historic structures (six to date) and outlined his interest in this project. He would move the building from its current location in the Dry Canyon to (preferably) an infill lot. The footprint would not be changed, but he would like to provide more architectural interest on the east-side porch and have the option of changing the windows. He would install a plaque about the historic nature of this building. He will consult with a moving company prior to making a formal proposal.

Ms. Richards affirmed that Mr. Lee has shown respect for the historic buildings he has handled in the past. Another party is considering a proposal and is involved in the due-diligence part of the process. During the Dry Canyon master-planning process, the public reached consensus about the need for permanent concessions in the canyon and to use existing structures to house them. However, the Parks Commissioners have not reached consensus on what it wants to do with this structure. Issues to be resolved included preservation vs. funding and public vs. private use.

Commissioners clarified their understanding of Mr. Lee's proposal. Additional concerns included *risk of moving damage, credibility of Mr. Lee's proposal, the building's economic viability as a concession stand, Parks Commission input, and impact of restroom construction on the building's structural integrity.* **By consensus**, Commissioners decided to meet on May 23, 2013, to explore additional options for this building and to make a decision on Mr. Lee's proposal. They asked Ms. Richards to invite Redmond Parks Commissioners and other interested parties.

B. Historic Preservation Month Discussion

1. Old Redmond Schoolhouse Interpretive Panel: Ms. Richards said an interpretive panel would elevate awareness of the structure's history and help ascertain whether citizens want

to retain public ownership of this building. Chair Nelson suggested that the panel contain an AutoCAD drawing showing how the floor plan evolved.

Commissioner concerns included *cost of interpretive panel* (style, materials, labor), *length of time it will be up*, *risk of negative publicity from elevating public awareness then moving the building*, and *Parks Commission feedback*.

Motion 1 (5/0/0): Commissioner Sturza moved that the City construct an inexpensive interpretive panel next to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse to explain the history and layout of the building. Commissioner Schroeder seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. **Jessie Hill School Bell:** Ms. Richards reported that Redmond School District built the cupola at Vern Patrick School to house the bell and will not permit it to be moved from that location. The district has verified that this is the original Jessie Hill School bell and is willing for the public to have access to the bell and photograph it.

Commissioners discussed alternatives including *a display about the bell at Redmond Public Library*, *requesting permission and funding assistance to install a plaque at the school*, *orienting teachers to the bell's significance*, *making presentations to students about the bell*, and *location of the old train bell*.

Motion 2 (5/0/0): Commissioner Schroeder moved that the Commission work with City and library staff to create a display about the Jessie Hill School bell for the library during Historic Preservation Month and to install a plaque at Vern Patrick School about the bell's significance. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Historic Landmark Designation – Next Steps

Ms. Richards reported that City staff have mailed notices to property owners twice with minimal results. Those interested have moved forward and their properties are the newest designations since the 1990s. She agreed to provide updated contact data at the June 2013 meeting.

Chair Nelson said the Housing Works subcommittee will make a recommendation at the May board meeting. Due to lack of response from property owners, many of which are nonlocal, Commissioners have not moved forward with designation recommendations to City Council.

Commissioner discussion covered *what no response to City mailings means*, *contacting out-of-town property owners*, and *most effective way to contact local owners* (phone calls, visits).

D. Certified Local Government Grant

Ms. Richards said that the bulk of the survey work for a National Historic District (funded by the CLG grant) will be done in June-July 2013. The HLC may designate a Commissioner "point person" to respond to questions or meet more often to facilitate the consultant's work.

Commissioner concerns included *frequency of consultant questions* and *potential meeting times*.

E. Approval of Minutes

Motion 3 (4/0/1): Commissioner Sturza moved to approve the April 11, 2013, minutes as presented. Commissioner Schroeder seconded the motion which passed with Commissioners Nelson, Pinkerton, Schroeder, and Sturza voting in favor and Commissioner Sutherland abstaining due to her absence from the April meeting.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilor McPherson said feedback from the Parks Commission is unlikely in May or June due to its current difficulty in establishing a quorum.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Hole suggested standardizing plaque location closer to the street to encourage more public interest in historic landmarks.

Mr. Barnett announced he is working with the owner (Susan Caward), Owen Evans, local merchants and musicians to provide food, beverages, and entertainment for the Petersen Rock Garden fund-raising event on Memorial Day weekend (May 25-27, 2013). Silver Leaf Café furnished cinnamon rolls, Starbucks provided coffee, and Mr. Barnett donated time on Friday of the estate sale weekend.

STAFF COMMENTS (None)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Nelson reported that the recent estate sale held at Petersen Rock Garden was attended by over 120 people. The items not sold will be put back into the house which was built in 1927. National designation is being pursued along with activities and events.

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2013.

Motion 4 (5/0/0): Commissioner Schroeder moved to adjourn. Commissioner Sturza seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

With no further business, Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVED by the Redmond Historic Landmarks Commission and SIGNED by me this 18th day of July, 2013.

ATTEST:

/s/ Jack Nelson
Jack Nelson
Chair

/s/ Heather Richards
Heather Richards
Community Development Director