

**CITY OF WEST LINN, CLG:
CLACKAMAS COUNTY HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

CCHRB Members Present: Todd Iselin, Jeff Jacqua, Joe Vondrak, David Turville, Roger Bell

CCHRB Members Absent: Bruce Butler

HRAB Members Present: David Banash

Staff Present: Tom Soppe, Associate Planner; Bryan Brown, Planning Director

Guests Present: None

Agenda Topics: CCHRB review of City's proposed nomination of Willamette Historic District to National Register of Historic Places

The board discussed the nomination and had a consensus that the nomination was a good idea and that West Linn's HRAB's authority should be deferred to as they were the experts on West Linn and the nomination. Therefore CCHRB was supportive of HRAB's efforts to nominate the district via submitting the collection of documents at hand. CCHRB members also provided the following individual and generalized thoughts and observations about the nomination:

- The nomination document was well-written and contains valuable history and architectural information. The consultants generally did very well with this component of their task.
- CCHRB cannot specifically vote on all aspects of the nomination document package as the members did not have access to the consultants' specific reconnaissance data; CCHRB felt it would need this data to make a proper historical-expertise-based judgment on the specific historical and architectural conclusions of the documents themselves. But CCHRB knows generally the history and architecture of the area and felt it was well-supported by the documents in a general sense. Therefore CCHRB is supportive of HRAB and the City in going forward with the nomination effort at this time.
- CCHRB supports, in general, HRAB taking over West Linn's needs for historic preservation in general, including development review for historic districts and landmarks as well as HRAB going on its own regarding advising broader efforts such as this nomination in the future.
- Deference to HRAB's vote on moving forward with the nomination is based in great part on the consensus reflected in the above bullet.
- CCHRB felt that architecture criterion for nomination was much better supported and justifiable in the nomination than the portion of the history Criterion A involving making a clear case as to the importance of the planning and development of this Willamette subdivision to the bigger events happening in the

region, state, and nation during the period of significance. It was recognized that the consultants had a certain limited amount of time to gather and research the sometimes obscure historical information.

- CCHRB supported the inclusion of the commercial properties within the district while one or more were a bit concerned that the district overall boundary size may be a bit large causing a dilution in the percentage of contributing properties.
- There was an acknowledgement concerning a statement by staff that the HRAB desired to move forward with review by the State Historic Advisory Committee in October while the nomination was fresh in the minds of affected property owners from the nomination outreach subcommittee's recent efforts to inform owners about the process.