

**CITY OF WEST LINN
HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

Members Present: Charles Awalt, Sandy Carter, Gail Holmes, Tom Neff

Members Absent: David Banash

Staff Present: Bryan Brown, Planning Director

Agenda Topics: Willamette Falls Nomination Update, Goal 5 Inventory Outreach, Citizen Advisory Boards Update for City Council, Update on Staff Research Regarding Code Change Task Force

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2.a. MINUTES OF 9-9-08 AND 11-12-08

The minutes were approved with one modification to the 11-12 minutes.

2.b. WILLAMETTE FALLS NOMINATION UPDATE

Mr. Awalt discussed the need for someone to spend much time in the state archives in Salem to get all the necessary documents to tell the story in the nomination narrative. Mr. Awalt discussed having the references to the “failed dream” of the railroad and having the Sanborn Maps. There was discussion of the falls being the center of the region and the nomination having a multiple towns scenario. There was discussion of how the planters and bumpouts on Willamette Falls Drive do not add to the historic character.

The board discussed the advantages if the City were to consider a building moratorium on the vacant lots to help keep the District’s percentage of contributing properties over 50%. The board voted to extend the nomination to the June 2009 SACHP meeting instead of the February meeting in order to ensure enough appropriate research is done to supplement the story of the nomination.

Mr. Awalt expressed interest in being able to see the consultants’ research materials. The board expressed interest in quickly finding out the timeframe for the June meeting and the deadline for getting documents rewritten for it.

2.c. GOAL 5 INVENTORY OUTREACH

There was concern raised about possible negative public feelings about the inventory that could arise when the public outreach is done, which could in turn hurt the historic district

nomination effort. There was a suggestion that outreach could move forward, in this case, for everywhere except the Willamette district and the Mill industrial properties.

There was discussion of doing a conservation overlay district for the mill area properties. The ordinance that would establish the conservation overlay district protecting these buildings could be based on the existing code protecting the Willamette Historic District, with the residential-architecture-specific sections removed. The inventory is already completed for the mill area properties, so the process may be quite achievable in the near future. There was discussion of making the permitting process for the overlay district “mild”.

2.d. DISCUSSION OF WILLAMETTE CODE REVISIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS

There was discussion of the goal of implementing a City staff position of Historic Preservation Officer by two years from the present. The position could be 50% of a full-time staff person’s time. Other possible goals to relate to the Council included adding two new positions to the HRAB, and management and improvement of code related to historic properties. It was later indicated that securing a historic preservation internship might be more realistic than a full or half-time Historic Preservation Officer. It was suggested that the two new positions on HRAB be for people with training and expertise in historic architecture, and/or that the people who fill these positions could be trained by the CCHRB. This way the people in these new positions could help HRAB transition into the CCHRB’s current role of development review for West Linn historic districts and landmark properties.

2.e. UPDATE ON STAFF RESEARCH REGARDING CODE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Staff had not the time to research this thus far. It was generally agreed that both Peter Spir and Tom Soppe should collaborate on getting the new Willamette District Code amendments drafted.

3. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There was discussion of the Willamette Rivers Heritage Organization (WRHO), which covers the area between the mouth of the Tualatin and the mouth of the Clackamas. Ms. Carter discussed the need to ensure HRAB’s work compliments rather than duplicates the work of WRHO. She volunteered to get information to Ms. Holmes so Ms. Holmes could look into this.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Holmes adjourned the meeting at 9:12.

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 12, 2008**

Agenda Item	Title	Doc Date	Document Description	Document Number
2c	Draft outreach letters for Goal 5 inventory adoption	November 14, 2008	See title	081202HRAB01

MINUTES APPROVED:

Gail Holmes, Chair

Date