



CITY OF West Linn

HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD

Minutes of June 15, 2015

Members present: Chair Adam Petersen, Jim Mattis, Christine Lewis, and Chris Sherland
Members absent: Vice Chair Jon McLoughlin, James Manning, and Samantha Higbee
Others: Chris Kerr, Community Development Director; Kara Clark, Guest; Jason Collin, Guest; Angela Dreher, Guest

Special MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Adam Petersen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Bolton Room of City Hall, 22500 Salamo Road, West Linn, Oregon.

BUSINESS FROM THE HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD

Chair Petersen stated that the meeting's sole purpose is to endorse some of the work happening in the Arch Bridge area.

Mr. Sherland spoke on the letter he drafted, which incorporates the historic review board's mission into the letter.

Mr. Mattis made some introductory statements. He repeated a statement he made to Council on behalf of the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation. He pointed out that the Foundation is similar to the Historic Review Board in that it tries to preserve historic places. He thought it would be appropriate for this board to write a similar letter to Council. He says that the consultants did good work on the economic opportunity analysis, but one of the pieces that could have been much better is the pictures that were given. The pictures gave "cookie-cutter" looking buildings that did not reflect West Linn's desires for what the building should look like in the area. That has contributed to some of the misunderstandings.

Mr. Mattis then addressed some of his edits on the letter in the last paragraph. He said that the original wording of "Please begin ..." is a bit dated now. He suggests "In conjunction with the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, the Historic Review Board urges the City to move forward with the next phase of creating a future plan for the historic but under-utilized part of our community where the city began in the 19th century. During the process of adopting design standards, community development, and zoning codes for the Arch Bridge area, please see that the historic values within the area are protected and ensure that new development reflect those values as well. And the HRB pledges to support that endeavor in any way we can."

Ms. Lewis made some edits as well regarding the first paragraph so that the document can stand as a written document in addition to spoken testimony. She suggested adding "The West Linn Historic Review Board supports ...". Mr. Kerr suggested that the wording change to "The West Linn Historic Review Board passed a motion ...". Ms. Lewis agreed with Mr. Kerr's suggestion.

Public Testimony

Chair Peterson opened the meeting to public testimony.

Ms. Clark asked whether the historic review board's end game is that any development in the Arch Bridge Area also come under the review of the Historic Review Board. She then followed up her question by asking the Board if they thought it would be a good idea to pursue this end game. Mr. Mattis answered the questions by saying that there are many different historic eras represented in the area, so he is not sure how the Board would be involved. However, he would like the Board to have some input in the area. Mr. Sherland answered Ms. Clark's question by saying that the City can set some criteria for protecting the historic resources within the area.

Mr. Collin wants to get national recognition for the Willamette Falls, and he was skeptical of some kinds of development like a five-story building because it does not fit the area. Board members responded by saying that the purpose of the letter is to address that issue. Collins responded by saying that the only way for the city to bring in revenues is through tourism because there is not enough space for big box stores. Mr. Mattis responded by saying that the Board is trying to increase tourism, and it is trying get historical recognition of the Willamette Falls.

Ms. Dreher insisted on a geological survey and environmental impact analysis. She wouldn't build on something until she knows what is in the area, and there are important animal species in the area. Her second concern was traffic. She advised that building should not start until future traffic patterns are known. She also added in response to Mr. Collin's comments that tourism is seasonal. Not many people tour Oregon during the winter, so it is not a good source of revenue for West Linn.

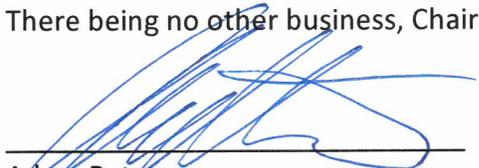
Move to Adopt the Letter

Ms. Lewis moved to adopt the letter with the red line edits and Ms. Lewis's edits. (Christine's edits: "The West Linn historic review board passed a motion to go on record to support ...") Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4:0:0.

Mr. Kerr will deliver the letter to City Council, and it will be part of the planning commission's and the consultants' planning process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Petersen adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.



Adam Petersen

10/20/15
Date