



CITY OF WEISER AND WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, January 10th, 2022 **(corrected)**

Washington County Commissioners Meeting Room

5:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Tony Edmondson, President WAPC/both CLG's
(ZOOM) Dennis Lance -WAPC/Both CLG's John & Dorothy Evans WAPC
Cheri Clausen WAPC/City CLG (ZOOM) Steve Clausen WAPC/City CLG
(ZOOM) Dennis Cooper WAPC Robert Peterson County IT Specialist
Brenda Aldrich WAPC/County CLG Coleen Grant WAPC Lisa
McKnight - WAPC Thel Pierson - Cambridge Historic-(ZOOM) Rick O'Donnell-(ZOOM)
Julie Chandler, Secretary (ZOOM)

Tony called the meeting to order for the Weiser and Washington County Historic Preservation Commissions in the Washington County Commissioners Meeting Room of the Washington County Court House. He explained that this is a dual meeting of County and City Commissions, because some members serve on both boards, but this afternoon's agenda is all County CLG business. Following introductions, the minutes from the last Commission meeting were presented for approval. Dennis Lance moved to approve the minutes and Dave Bean moved to second the motion. Carried.

In December, an informal meeting was held with Sheri Fremuth, project coordinator - JUB Engineering, discussing the mitigation project for the removal of the Cove Bridge. They are working with several agencies: Idaho Transportation Department, Washington County Commissioners, L-Tac, and the Idaho State Historical Society. It has been a 2-year process culminating in an overall \$60,000.00 project. The project is divided into three sections: **1) The Historic Preservation Plan for the County 2) surveys of structures in a reconnaissance level survey and also to survey the Public at large on how the General Public feel about Historic Resources in our county and what is most important 3) research for and construction of a**

sign. The TAG Team feel that they should be able to survey about 100-125 properties within the budget allowed. We need to set a date for public open house meetings, one to be held in the upper part of the county and one to be held in the lower part of the county for public input about feelings of the Historic Resources and Sites they consider important. Sheri Fremuth reached out and asked if we could get word out to the public beyond just our Commission to convey knowledge of the meeting and the purpose of meetings to be held. Included in the invitations are 4 different indigenous tribes. Tony reached out to all four tribes, the Umatilla Tribes and Columbia Gorge and from the Inland Communities as far north as Coreur d'Alene, but so far only the Umatilla Tribe has responded to the invitation. However, there has been no indication that they will attend. But they are included in all communications concerning this procedure.

Lisa McKnight is also here this evening. She worked in the County Recorders office for years. She has family ties to the Frank Harris family as well as the Scheloske Family both of which have resided in this valley, dating back to the early 1900's . She volunteers at the ICC&M and is presently scanning photos for the museum.

Thel Pierson and Sandra Hansen (Sandra had to be excused this evening for a medical emergency) from the upper part of Washington County will be participating. Sharon Widener from the Midvale Area would like to be involved. Lisa M. also recommended that Norma Seid Rose whose father was a Seid and Mother was a Branch which gives her lots of Historical background in the area, also be invited to participate in this process.

At this December ZOOM Workshop, Sheri Fremuth asked for ideas and direction for the TAG ladies to go with their surveys. They will not have to start from scratch, because back in the 1980's when we were a very young Commission, our City and County CLG group did a large number (hundreds) of the Reconnaissance Site Surveys. Julie remembered that copies were placed in the Public Library and the ICC&M, but Tony mentioned that the TAG Team is actually working from the set we sent in to the SHPO office. Therefore, for some of those 125 properties, they will be able to zero in on what we've already accomplished.

It has been an interesting process to follow what has happened to Properties from when they were first surveyed in the 1980's until now. This alone could be a real eye opener to the General Public and to the importance of surveying these historical properties to preserve their place in our community history. We need to include: irrigation sites and structures, saw mills, orchards (at one time our area was referred to as The Big Red Apple), mining (Salubria, Appleton, Mineral...), Labor Camps (do we know of any in other parts of our county?), cemeteries (Lisa M. mentioned that our county has so many of these country cemeteries and they are so beautiful. Tony added that some are little oasis's of green and so well cared for), River Transportation agencies, recreational areas, for example: Hitt Mountain (opened by the Seid family in the 1960's), etc...

This evening we have a few directives:

- We need to come up with possible dates for our public meetings. Sheri F. has requested that, if possible, we arrange to hold an early meeting (maybe 5:00ish) in Weiser and then a later (maybe 8:00 p.m.) meeting that same night in the upper part of the County.

- We need a list of people we wish to invite from various interest levels.
- We need to have a list of topics we wish to address. Sheri F. said that her agency has a public outreach person and we need to get in contact with them.

Tony asked for ideas and feedback from the rest of those attending tonight's meeting. Thel responded that they have no working heat in the Cambridge Museum. She suggested that alternate sites might be the Fair Grounds or maybe the library. Midvale members usually drive up to meet with Cambridge.

Dennis Cooper suggested that an informative Power Point could be put together for the presentation and then set it up to run throughout the open house. He has done this kind of thing before in the Cambridge Library on the wall. He would just need the information required and he'd willingly put it together.

Dennis Lance said that it seemed from Sheri F.'s notes, she suggested that bulletin board displays would serve best and that there be no formal presentation. Dave B. added that we need to be aware of the time constraint to pack up and move physically from Weiser to Cambridge to hold to meetings in the same night.

Tony E. mentioned that maybe two sets of display boards would be needed. The Upper County may have some different information more pertinent to their needs from what we display in Weiser. We need to do some research into what we want to include. Thel P. asked to be part of the committee to compile the information to be included on the display boards.

Tony E. said that Sheri F. would do the large part of the presentation. Washington County does include the entire county and we need to be sensitive to that as we compile our list of important resources to include. When he gets more information from Sheri F., he will pass it on.

Dave B. asked what the basic objective of the open house would be? To gather folks? Resources? Tony E. responded that it would actually be for both. There is a survey available for folks to fill out to help in the gathering of these resources - who is interested in being included in this process and what physical resources attendees feel need to be included.

Robert Peterson, Washington County IT Specialist said that Sheri F. wants to get face time on the County Website to address this Historic Preservation Plan. Sheri F. has asked to have this information uploaded on the website, including to survey, in an effort to reach more folks. Brenda A. added that Sheri F. also even suggested that we might consider even sending the information home with the public-school children. Dorothy E. asked if it would be possible to utilize the city utility bills to get the word out, however that would not include the county citizens. Maybe we could check with Idaho Power for a flier inset in their bills

Tony E. opened up a map to show sites that have been previously tagged. Dennis L. asked if an area doesn't have a blue dot on the map, does that mean it hasn't been surveyed? Do we need to review the map to see what sites have been done? Tony E. said that the TAG ladies doing the surveys need to do their jobs before we can move forward. We may need to offer suggestions. We don't have to

feel like we need to do it all right now. Maybe in the future we can even apply for a CLG Grant and have the TAG Ladies come back to work on other sites.

Tony E. stated that right now we need a date for this Open House. Lisa M. offered to check with the County and the Newspaper for open nights. Thel P. said that we need to be very aware of the school calendars and offered to check in their part of the county for conflicts with churches and school programs and she'll get the available dates to Lisa M. who offered to check the school and community calendars in Weiser. Tony E. recommended that we concentrate on the end of February, first of March for our date and try to settle on a date by next week so he can let Sheri F. know and we'll have time to get the word out through every resource possible.

Dennis C. offered their Bee Tree Folk School as the meeting site in Weiser. Lisa M. mentioned that over a thousand people visit the Weiser Museum Sites (there are actually 2 sites) for their highly interesting posting, so that would be another resource for spreading the word about the open house.

Tony E. said that he has been contacted by a lady on Weiser Flat involved with the Haas Grange that is anxious to be involved. There are just so many organizations out there, Tony asked that if we think of any organization that should be included in this process that we email him a list to reach out to.

We need to revise our Historic Preservation Meeting Dates. At our last meeting, we suggested quarterly, but Sheri F. has expressed the need to continue meeting here in the County Commissioner's rooms on a monthly basis during this process, and include the ZOOM option. Would the first Monday each month at 5:00 p.m. work for everyone right here.

Once the County's Plan is in place, it would be nice to approach the City of Weiser to do a Preservation Plan for them as well.

Tony commented that the goal is eventually for every county to have an Historic Preservation Plan/Document like this in place. Every county may not do it, but I see it as being a wonderful resource. Lisa M. commented that she had originally thought this was just about the bridge, but it is a whole lot more. The bridge is just a small part of it.

Tony E. added that the Cove bridge was just the catalyst that started this whole procedure. Any time there is federal dollars are involved in a project, which typically are transportation, Section 106 which is part of the Federal Law Antiquities Act, requires that if the item being considered for removal or demolition is either on the National Register or is deemed eligible to be on the National Register, mitigation must be done to make up for the loss of that item. There is a set procedure that must be followed. The last time we had one of these mitigations in our County was several years ago. There was a culvert out by the Hometown Auto Dealership on Highway 95, that was deemed significant. We had to do mitigation and received \$10,000.00 to restore the window in the Pythian Castle.

At some point, there will be another mitigation for another highway project or another county project involving Federal dollars, and we'll be back at this table again doing this same thing.

Dennis L. asked if there was any set designation from the \$60,000.00 mitigation money as to how it was to be divided up? Tony responded that \$30,000.00 is designated for the Historical Preservation Plan, \$20,000.00 is earmarked to work on the survey of available county resources, and \$10,000.00 is to be used for the sign which not only includes the creation of the sign, but determining what is going to be on the sign.

At 6:05 p.m. Tony closed the meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, February 2nd, 5:00 pm- Wash. Co. Commissioner's meeting room- Wash. Co. Courthouse. Watch your emails for the meeting reminder.

Respectfully Submitted, Julie M. Chandler, Secretary

