

**Historical Buildings and Sites Commission
MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2020 at 5:30 PM
Courtyard Conference Room**

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Ward Warren (Chair)
Rob Pell (Vice Chair)
Arden McConnell
Virginia Ford
Shirley Holzinger
Bill Richardson

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

City Councilor Barry Eames
Lora Glover – PCD Director
Bradley Clark – Principal Planner
Donna Rupp – Associate Planner

Guests:

Ginger Becker	Nathan Miller
Kurt Burgage	Trish & Tom Thoman
Susan Seereiter	Michael Holzinger
Lita Neiderhiser	Joe Neiderhiser

1. **Roll Call** – Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. All present.

2. **Introductions**

3. **Guest Presentation: Applegate Trail Markers**

Lita Neiderhiser presented the history of the Applegate Trail, which came about in 1846 as an alternative route to traveling down the Columbia River to reach the Willamette Valley. Southern Oregon was settled much quicker because of the work of the people who established it. It was named after Jesse Applegate. There are currently about 39 trail markers from Ashland to Rickreall, but they are not real prominent.

Lita has been working with the National Parks Service to include the Applegate Trail in a historical driving guide that they are publishing. It would be good to get a marker in Grants Pass to be able to get it into the guide. She doesn't know exactly when the guide will be published – "soon."

Discussion of getting a marker at 6th and G along with a marker for the Indian Marathon.

4. **Public Comment:**

Michael Holzinger commented that an Arbor Day event is planned for April 6 at Croxton Park.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

a. January 16, 2020

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 2, Item 6c – it will be moved to February with a guest presentation
- Page 2 Item 6d – train came to Grants Pass in 1883-1884.

Motion

Vice Chair Pell moved, and Chair Warren seconded the motion to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes with corrections. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Holzinger, McConnell, Richardson. "NAYS": None. Abstain: Commissions Holzinger and Ford. Absent: None.

The motion passed.

6. Action Items:

- a. Awning Replacement Application Review - 115 & 117 SW G Street – Patricia Thoman
 - o Staff presented report addressing criteria for approval. (Included in February packet.)
 - o Applicant presented further information and answered questions from commissioners. She consulted with local historian George Kramer prior to submitting the application.
 - o The items to be reviewed include the paint color, the new lighting, the design of the new awning and the materials in the new awning.
 - o Public comment included support for the proposal from one guest; and photos of what the awning looked like in 2008 from another.
 - o Commissioners discussed the four decision criteria.

Motion

Chair Warren moved, and Commissioner McConnell seconded the motion to approve the Awning Replacement Application in terms of lighting, paint and the horizontal awning design, but not approving the use of Lexan on the awning. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Holzinger, Richardson, McConnell and Ford. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

The motion passed.

- b. Review and vote on Commission applicant applications.
 - o Voting ballots were distributed with four HBSC candidates applying for two open positions; commissioners discussed the options and cast their votes.
 - o Staff collected and tallied the ballots then read out loud the results of the voting as six votes for Ginger Ford for the first open position. For the second open position staff revealed the results as four votes for Nathan Miller, one vote for Shannon Holder and one abstaining vote.

Motion

Chair Warren moved, and Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion to recommend the appointment of Ginger Ford and Nathan Miller to the HBSC Commission. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Holzinger, Richardson, McConnell and Ford. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

The motion passed.

- c. Establish Museum Subcommittee – delayed.
- d. Update Welcome Signs (founded date or incorporation date)
 - o Discussion on keeping the wording consistent on existing signs by using incorporated date (1887) vs. founded date (1883).

Motion

Chair Warren moved, and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion to recommend that any welcome signs that are clarified or added in the future include, “Grants Pass Founded 1883.” The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Holzinger, Richardson, McConnell and Ford. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

The motion passed.

e. Discuss Potential Design Standards for Historic Residential Conservation Overlay

Due to the increased density that will soon be mandated by the state, the commission would like to begin the process of creating an overlay for historic residential conservation. The initial area will cover the blocks between Lawnridge and Washington and A St. and Savage St. Commissioners discussed the varied architectural styles within these blocks and how some homes are not built in a historic style.

Discussion of having new buildings match existing dwelling styles; also having a guide for different style types (craftsman, art deco, mid-century modern) to provide guidance to applicants. Commission would like to keep it as simple as possible so staff can make the decision regarding style and not require all buildings to be reviewed by the commission.

Action item for commissioners: Review materials in packet regarding historic conservation overlays and come prepared to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

7. Matters from Commission Members and Staff

a. Review applications for Local Landmarks

Staff – has applications ready for Croxton Park and Grants Pass Pharmacy. Should they wait until we receive something for Redwood Empire sign? Don't wait, go ahead and get them processed.

Commission – Ward has contacted State about Redwood Empire sign. He will get paperwork started on it.

Arden would like to add more landmarks to the list for review:

- Former Railroad depot (which was standing at 8th & G/Safeway) mark with a plaque
- Grover's Creamery
- Western Hotel at 6th and D
- Roundhouse
- Power dam – it has been voted down before but Arden wants to advocate for it because it represents the first time Grants Pass had electricity. She'd like to have a sign somewhere on the river commemorating it.

b. Review information on Isaak Walton Building

Staff notified commissioners that a full box of information is available if anyone is interested in reviewing it. Commissioner Warren requested some basic information be brought to the next meeting.

c. Update on historical plaque installations

A contractor is working on them. They will be installed by next meeting.

Additional item not on agenda – Commissioners would like to move the meeting back to the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Motion

Commissioner McConnell moved, and Chair Warren seconded the motion to move the Commission's monthly meeting from the 3rd Thursday, back to the 2nd Thursday. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Holzinger, Richardson, McConnell and Ford. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

The motion passed.

8. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- Local landmarks
- Historic residential conservation overlay
- Museum subcommittee
- National Register nomination for Riverside Park

9. Adjourn 7:35 pm

Next Meeting: March 12, 2020