

**PIERCE COUNTY LANDMARKS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the Pierce County Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission are not verbatim; however, recorded copies are available upon request.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Caroline Swope, Chair
Robert Allen
Jean Fisher

Gordon "Buzz" Grant
Edwin Hennings
Gretchen Kaehler

MEMBER ABSENT

Robert Edington (unexcused)

Brett Santhuff (excused)

STAFF

Chad Williams
Cory Ragan

Cindy Anderson, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes

Motion made (Hennings/Grant) to approve the March 18, 2014 meeting minutes with the following changes:

- Page 2-Old Pierce County Hospital, add District 5
- Page 2 McMillin Bridge, last line should read... park "bridge" preservation
- Page 2 McMillin Bridge, second paragraph, Eliminate "...a grant is necessary to fix the McMillin Bridge."

Motion unanimously passed as amended

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nominations to the Pierce County Historic Register

Wilkeson Coke Ovens

Chad Williams made a correction to the application, stating that there are 45, not 54 ovens. The principal structure (Criteria A and C) was selected. Chair Swope stated that the application was reviewed by the subcommittee.

Commission member comments included:

- The revised application does a better job in pointing out the significance of the ovens and the coal industry.
- The statement of significance is very good.
- Why wasn't the site included in the nominated elements? It seems more a site than a structure.
- Site meets criteria for historic archaeology. It could be both site and structure.
- This is a very good, strong nomination.

Donna Hogerhuis, applicant, stated the nomination is for a battery of coke ovens, not just a single oven. The application can be changed to reflect both if necessary.

Motion made (Hennings/Grant) to recommend approval of the nomination with nominated elements of a principal structure and site, and also changing criteria for designation from boxes A and C, to A and D. Motion unanimously passed

Lakebay Marina

Chair Swope noted that this is the third revised application that the subcommittee has reviewed for this site. The subcommittee feels that the application does not meet application criteria. They request that another revision be submitted for one year. The applicants have not met the burden of proof.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Tim Craig, stated that the cafeteria was lunch/breakfast cafeteria in the 1960s. His uncle, Reinhold Strike, helped build some of the buildings on the site.

Linda Craig, noted that the original coolers are still in the store.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Chad Williams explained that the original application included nomination of four structures. The current application only lists the marina.

Commission member Allen stated that he is still uncertain about what makes the site historic. Even though one building was completed in 1952, the site is historic because it was one of three stops for the Mosquito Fleet. No evidence of the Mosquito Fleet was presented in the application. There was also no mention of the 1930s farmers' market in Lakebay.

Chair Swope commented that the applicants should seek the assistance of a professional to assist them in completing the nomination application. The applicants have enough to work with; the application just needs to be complete.

Mr. Craig added that the granary and original house were in one area and the preacher's house in another. The docks fell apart and rebuilt. The owners at that time brought in new piling for the granary.

Mr. Williams commented that if properly documented, the piers themselves could provide enough history.

Motion made (Hennings/Fisher) reject current application as presented. The application cannot be resubmitted for one year. Motion unanimously passed

Mr. Williams will contact the applicants.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Nomination Code Changes

Chair Swope stated that the City of Tacoma charges \$100 per nomination application. If a nomination is denied, the applicant cannot resubmit for one year. Pierce County does not have enough staff to commit to writing and rewriting applications. Staff will research language for fees, and the one-year waiting period for resubmittal. If a nomination is incomplete, it should not be brought before the Commission. Staff will draft changes and submit to the Commission at the next meeting along with copies of the

Tacoma, King County, and Clark County historic preservation codes. The subcommittee, Gordon Grant, Ed Hennings, and Caroline Swope, will review the draft codes and provide comments and suggestions at the June meeting.

The subcommittee will focus on areas such as fees, establishing the public hearing criteria; member requirements; and the number of times a nomination application can be submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Filucy Bay

Cory Ragan presented draft letters for Filucy Bay property owner letters. Commission member Kaehler suggested that the letter for “20 sites with no findings” be modified. “Project boundary” should be replaced with study area. There should be another comment stating that “If you want more information, please complete the DAHP property request form. A signed proof of ownership must accompany the form.”

Ms. Kaehler continued that one of the primary benefits of allowing the survey to be conducted on a site is a free historic survey. This helps the property owner identify historic areas that may help them consider placement of proposed structures such as docks.

Staff noted that the consultant for the Filucy Bay project would like to hold an open house in Key Peninsula. It was suggested that the meeting be held in junction with a Key Peninsula Advisory Commission meeting on May 21. Staff will look at that option.

Historic Pierce County-Owned Buildings

Mr. Williams compiled a list of Pierce County-owned buildings over 50 years old. Thirty-five structures are on the list that includes everything from buildings to water towers. Chair Swope asked Mr. Williams to refine the list keeping structures such as hangars and removing the underground fuel tank. Staff will use the existing Excel format for the list. There are three structures from the 1930s. Mr. Williams will determine if they are on a historic register. The list will be electronically shared with the Commission.

McMillin Bridge

Chair Swope noted that a meeting with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is scheduled for April 29 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the McMillin Bridge status. She, Gordon Grant, Sean Gaffney, Joseph Coppo, and Chris Moore will attend. Chair Swope will provide meeting details at the May meeting.

Old Pierce County Hospital

Chair Swope presented a draft letter to the Commission for review. The letter will be submitted to the County as part of the SEPA review process. She noted there is no evidence to support the demolition of the existing structures.

Historic Road Markers

Chad Williams stated that Mr. Everett, Sound Built Homes, would like to address the Landmarks Commission in June about moving the Connells Prairie marker. In response to Commission question, Mr. Williams stated that he has some information on the marker including a site plan with the proposed site. Commission member Kaehler commented that she has not been able to locate anyone who has moved historic markers. The Commission will discuss next month to see if there is new information.

2014 Grant Application Status

Chad Williams stated that 16 applications were submitted. Two of the packets will not be moved forward; one packet was received after the cutoff, and two were received from the City of Tacoma, so the City will be asked to choose which application to move forward. Complete grant packets will go out by end of week. The Commission decisions are based on the grant applications, not testimony of applicants or area residents.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Williams noted that the applicant for the Brown's Point Light Station requested that the nomination not be put on the agenda until next month. Staff received an email from Robert Hunter, Attorney for the Puyallup Tribe. Chair Swope explained that the nomination application can move forward without checking the Native American box. If the archaeological box is checked, the applicants must work with the Tribe. Staff will forward the email from Mr. Hunter to Points NE.

Referencing the 2013 grant recipients, Chair Swope stated that the City of Tacoma has not heard from A Street Associates. One of the conditions for fund reimbursement for this project is that the applicant must meet with City of Tacoma.

Mr. Williams briefly recapped a conversation with Joel Chrisman, representing AFX who was a 2013 grant fund recipient. Mr. Chrisman may have to pull his application. Staff advised him to submit a letter to the Commission with the reason for turning down the grant money.

Commission member Hennings stated he was told that Pacific Lutheran University wants to demolish the Parkland School. Central Pierce Fire and Rescue is interested in buying the land once the building is demolished. The school was constructed in 1888 and the building was placed on the Register in 1986. The gym was built around the 1930s. Staff should talk to PLU facilities reminding that the building is on the Pierce County Register of Historic Places. Staff will research the building data and present at the May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

/cla