



BENTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes Friday May 19 2023

Members Attending: HCAC Vice Chair: Jill **Van Buren**, Courthouse Preservation Committee representative; HCAC Chair: Chris **Westfall**, Oregon Judicial Department, Trial Court Administrator; Jessica **Hougen**, Benton County Historical Society; Christina Rehkla, Visit Corvallis, Executive Director; Roz **Keeney**, representing Preservation WORKS; Peter **Betjemann**, OSU, Director of Arts and Education, College of Liberal Arts; Bob **Richardson**, OSU, Senior Land Use Planner

Advisory Staff Attending: Jesse **Ott** Deputy Director of Benton County Natural Areas, Parks & Events; Inga **Williams**, Benton County Community Development Associate Planner;

Others Attending: Lizz Gustin, Benton County Natural Areas, Parks & Events Administrative Assistant II, HCAC Recorder

- I. Meeting called to order 1005
- II. Approval of February 17, 2023, Minutes – not met since Feb meeting, Keeney motions to approve Williams seconds minutes approved
- III. Citizens' call to order; **Westfall** stated none present nor submitted.
- IV. Report regarding March 14, 2023 status meeting with Board of Commissioners – Westfall provided an explanation as to how we got to where we are; two big buckets; subcommittee processes going forward with a deeper dive; brief feasibility study or assessment was advised not committees responsibility; Cory Grogen PIO team public outreach scope and operate and county to take lead on drafting this report. County admin BOC have agreed to find a county department or contract out within the county to have this professionally written; requested this person to be on board by June/July ; intent to have meaningful public engagement; sequence to respond in a timely manner; seismic – concluded is a pro con to every consideration will address in final report that it has the value with the cost; concern was brought up that this was not publicized enough now have a web page attached to NAPE – Ott will send link to all
- V. **Subcommittee reports to the HCAC : ARTS & CULTURE** Jessica two page draft from Bob will send it out to all; read from pages ; final feel is that the building will become an incubator be it a kitchen, art; youth group, monitored space, - basement experimental dining – first floor second elevated with fine dining and small rooms reservable ; 3rd maker spaces and arts studios mixed with retail; did not worry about the ownership as much as what to fill; felt with an anchor restaurant and incubator surrounds it would balance out; Betjemann – first floor

more food prep designed for an easier turnover; Incubator model is not permanent so its continually changing; Multiple spaces will need multiple things this is a challenge we looked at structural movement ; Keeney making the courthouse one large back to the original opening up for entertainment; Ott Historically this is the place to organize for protests; 40% of the population is OSU students so providing something that does not have alcohol captures more of that demographic Rehklau; Ott our flow was smooth and we felt there was no conflict with what is currently available; Westfall so a community all ages space; Continued conversation on what the space could be used for; government civic; Scott community restoration respirations area in some form of capacity; This old building will need a purpose; Justice system will continue to evolve finding space to continue to grow is essential; just a low level offense diverted from a justice system to a community building to sustain; Still a mixed use for the building as this would not take up the whole building. VanBuren the lend themselves to each other as asked where to eat downtown for those visiting for their reason; Positive we avoid the seismic elephant in the room; Rehklau if not taking up the whole space I feel offices depending on the issues being worked on; take into consideration public perception; Group is not in opposition to either just advocating for the changes; Westfall it's presenting a new concept of justice; Difference between restoration and mediation – matter of resolving differences between parties that require an outcome without judicial use; restoration reparations – making someone whole after crime was committed placing the offender in good standing within the community to move forward; Jessica – child care should be taken into consideration; Continued round table discussions on mediations; the need is steady and large have been pushed out and doing within the community or remote currently; it is no longer suitable and sustainable to continue as is it would be cheaper to get new than restore.

- VI. Public outreach development planning: Westfall will continue with Tomi and Cory conversing about what kind of mechanical parts we need to bring back to the next meeting; what would we want to have happened included; think through from your own perspective how you'd like this to work and we will work on what we CAN do;
- VII. Next Steps: Nothing stated for next step
- VIII. Other: discussion of website link to Benton County Courthouse Historical – where they set up tours
- IX. Adjournment: 1133