



## BENTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes Friday, April 1, 2022

Members Attending: Kate Porsche, BC Economic Development Manager; Christina Rehklau, Visit Corvallis Executive Director; Jessica Hougen, Benton County Historical Society Executive Director; Jimbo Ivy, Corvallis Parks & Recreation Theater Supervisor; Bob Richardson, Senior Land Use Planner OSU; Peter Betjemann, Director of Arts and Education, College of Liberal Arts OSU; Jill Van Buren, Courthouse Preservation Committee representative; Roz Kenney and BA Beierle, Preservations Works; Scott McClure, Historic Resources Commission representative; and Chris Wesfall, Oregon Judicial Department, Trial Court Administrator

Advisory Staff Attending: Commissioner Nancy Wyse, BOC Liaison; Lynne McKee, Benton County Natural Areas, Parks and Events Director; Nick Kurth, Benton County JSIP Manager; Paul Wallsinger, Benton County Facilities Manager; Erica Ceder, DLR Group

Others Attending: Joe Kerby, Benton County Administrator

Introductions: McKee opened the meeting by asking everyone to self-introduce and say a sentence or two about why they are interested in being a part of this advisory committee. Bringing skills from museum sturdies to architectural and facilities maintenance the members overwhelmingly cited the Courthouse's iconic and historical presence and their individual interest in history and historic preservation as their motivation for serving.

Greeting by Commissioner Nancy Wyse –expressed how happy she was to be the liaison on this Committee and thanked the members for their commitment as we all recognize this amazing historical structure.

Historic Courthouse Building Condition – Erica Ceder, DLR Group and Paul Wallsinger, Benton County Facilities Manager reviewed the current status of the building. Ceder noted the DLR's condition assessment was based on a visual survey that found the overall condition good with no obvious signs of damage. Ceder pointed out the seismic vulnerability and accessibility issues are key to the building's future use.

Wallsinger presented a PowerPoint reviewing the investigation into seismic work for the structure and costs estimates. Wallsinger noted protecting exterior of the building is the most critical effort for the preservation of the structure. Benton County reached out to the Oregon Department of Justice for

funding for several projects to support exterior preservation and Wallsinger feels hopeful that these will be funded. Wallsinger spoke of some of the challenges sourcing materials pointing out as an example the roofing tiles are original, one of a kind not be purchased in today's market. Wallsinger reviewed on-going maintenance projects which have just continued to increase in cost from bid year to the present. Porsche stated the elephant in the room is certainly the seismic vulnerability and questioned what alternatives might exist from posting warning signs as tried in Portland to retrofitting to destruction. The Committee will wrestle with this as decisions are made as there are many questions to answer from what kind of earthquake you design for and what condition you want the building to be in after a quake and change of use will trigger what is required. Kenney shared there is local experience with the Footwise building and local expertise at OSU. McKee thanked all who provided support letters for the Federal funding request.

Development of Project Plan – Nick Kurth, Manager, Justice System Improvement Program, shared slides defining the difference between a project and a program. Kurth noted this Committee's work is to actively engage with the public to bring forth a recommendation to the BOC.

Scheduling Historic Courthouse Tour - McKee assured everyone the tour is still planned to take place and acknowledged Van Buren for the very well-produced Courthouse YouTube videos while recommending them to all. McKee will Doodle Poll for the next meeting where Chair and Vice Chair will be selected and a standing meeting day/time will be set. Porsche shared the City does not plan on being a potential user.

Other

Adjournment