



Minutes

BENTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Benton County Courthouse, Court Room 1

Members Present: HCAC Chair: Chris **Westfall**, Oregon Judicial Department, Trial Court Administrator; Jill **Van Buren**, Representing the Courthouse Preservation Committee (HCAC Vice-Chair) Roz **Keeney**, Representing Preservation WORKS, Christy **Wood**, Executive Director Corvallis Chamber, Scott **McClure**, representing the Historic Resources Commission; Bob **Richardson**, OSU, Senior Land Use Planner; Christel **Birdwell**, Cultural Arts and Community Engagement Supervisor, City of Corvallis; Christina **Rehklau**, Executive Director, Visit Corvallis; Christopher **Jacobs**, Economic Development Manager, City of Corvallis, Jason **Allen**, Survey Program Coordinator, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Advisory Staff Present: Tomi **Douglas**, Director of Benton County Natural Areas, Parks & Events; Inga **Williams**, Benton County Community Development Associate Planner; Paul **Wallsinger**, Benton County Facilities Manager; Brenda **Downum**, Communications and Community Engagement , Downum Consulting

Public attendees included representatives from the Benton County Historic Resources Commission.

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Westfall at 2:17 pm. Chair Westfall asked all committee members and attendees to provide brief self-introductions and provided a reminder that this is an information gathering session for the committee.
- II. Presentation by OSU DSGN 387 students of conceptual interior designs depicting potential repurposing scenarios of the courthouse with feedback by HCAC members.

The committee was asked to listen to the design presentations and provide feedback on how the concepts align with concepts the committee envisions. The student projects were not constrained by practical or feasible considerations. Chair Westfall introduced Professor David Jacobs.

Jacobs thanked committee members for their work on this project and appreciated the effort to bring the student designers into the process at this early stage. This upper division class

presents a unique challenge. Students are developing innovative ideas grounded in client input. This has been demanding for students and has required mastering new tools and software. Presentations will show a mixed-use vision of adaptive reuse. Questions are welcome as they come up during the presentation.

Six student groups presented their concepts which are available as attachments to the meeting minutes. Committee members appreciated all of the student concepts and valued the perspectives shared in their designs.

Westfall thanked the student presenters for providing ideas with specificity that the committee has been hoping for. The presentations provided some ideas that the committee has not yet considered.

III. Public Comment

One of the student presenters offered thanks for the feedback on their work.

Community member attendee noted that we still have furniture in the courthouse that was purchased for the courthouse. Westfall shared that there will be consideration for the courthouse furniture but that is not within the scope of the committee.

David Jacobs thanked the students for a tremendous job. He shared that the concept of mixed-use was built into the project. The various functions can be mixed and matched. He offered the use of the boards with the student concepts to be displayed for public viewing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.