



BENTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes Friday February 17 2023

Members Attending: HCAC Chair: Chris **Westfall**, Oregon Judicial Department, Trial Court Administrator; Jessica **Hougen**, Benton County Historical Society; Roz **Keeney**, representing Preservation WORKS; Scott **McClure**, representing the Historic Resources Commission; 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; Commissioner Nancy **Wyse**, Liaison; Paul **Wallsinger**, Benton County Facilities Manager; Jason **Allen**, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Survey Program Coordinator

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

- I. Meeting called to order 1012
- II. Approval of January 20, 2023 minutes; Keeney motions to approve, Betjemann seconds; Approved no opposed
- III. Citizens' call to order; **Westfall** stated none present nor submitted.
- IV. Preparing for Public Outreach: **Westfall**- Revision on subcommittees has backed us up. We will at the end of this meeting know a better scheduling agenda for the sub committees using this as a kick off meeting for the sub committees. Speaking with Joe Kerby public outreach will be done in each subcommittee. I feel this group should review the final report and we find another to actually put the draft report together. Will speak to some directors in search of this person to fill a draft report. 80 – 90 hours to construct a first draft. Meeting with Jesse and I to keep calibrated. **Ott** – we are getting closer hoping next week. Still exploring this – for the bigger outreach the county PIO is ready Corey does a fantastic job.
Keeney – this is for both reports?
Westfall – March 14 we would just really need a one pager of a synopsis of how we have gotten here and an update on public outreach I (Westfall) would write this one pager.
Keeney – I feel this report really needs to cover what it is we have covered. As this helps me talk to my buddies, without a cliff note idea I get off track this one pager will be great. I get a lot of how does this process with the Bond measure. Is there not \$5 million

Westfall – yes just a one page synopsis with the final being the robust with details from how we got where we are to the public outreach details. I would like to honor the work we have done as well honor the requests of the BOC.

Wyse – There is constant changes in this bond measure – there is no monies earmarked for this courthouse and very little will go to the new courthouse as funding is being brought in elsewhere.

Westfall – In the beginning the courthouses was a bigger part of the JSIP bond measure but that has changed and is no longer part of this. We have been asked to not do public outreach until June time frame – this bringing our final report realistically will be early December. Shifting our timeline altogether.

Wallsinger – any indication if we publish a draft will that become public information that in turn begins public outreach

Wyse – there is strategy to this – when asked by the public we are able to advise that there is a team in place looking at the courthouse and I personally would prefer this to be done right not rushed.

Westfall – Oct a first draft amongst us as a committee for review – Have this final drafter join our committee in June/July to begin the absorption to produce our final report.

Ott – what will we need in hand for public engagement what is your vision?

Westfall – what I discussed with Kerby is person who can come in and graphically and re visualize the information we have to be able to present it properly to the public a slick brochure large visuals, with electronic presence too. As a group we do need to determine a sense of what do we want to know prior to the public engagement. Kerby has given a hard start of June for public engagement.

Hougen – without going back to square one we share more in depth ideas we have picked.

Westfall – As a committee we want to position us for success. What does that look like how much do we structure

Wallsinger - we need to do the who what when why strong talk points placing a great foundation for building the report. Present what was considered who did it

Westfall – what would you want to know from your fellow citizens, friends, neighbors, if you could ask them on the 2 topics we have?

Ott – is there anything we have not thought of?

Gustin - Consider the cost to the tax – payer

McClure – a mission statement at the top?

Westfall – when everyone has been at a community engagement what worked well when you were there?

Ott - really visuals seem to work best – a compare and contrast of the final 2

Westfall - We will need to begin the sub committees to get a stronger conviction of what to ask the public.

- V. Preparations and planning for drafting preliminary report to Board of Commissioners.
This subject merged into the above conversations.
- VI. Recess. Work session in subcommittees for preliminary coordination of subcommittee logistics and, as time allows, deeper review of each repurposing type. 1100 hrs. convened to sub committees. Hougen motioned, McClure seconded
- VII. Reconvene 1127 hrs.
- VIII. Subcommittee Reports, Process clarifications across both subcommittees:
Hougen – we set our next 3 meetings – collectively will review the notes individually for our first meeting to begin and look into a comparable process – Using google docs.
Westfall – identified how we will go about setting meetings frequency 1 hr. every other week during regular business hours – compiling and generating the post it notes and ensuring they are also on the google drive. Will need some floor plans / still looking to coordinate a tour for all. Opportunity to invite external persons to our subcommittee. Just reiterating as long as we do not have a corium we can proceed.
- IX. Other business: **Keeney** – preservation is the month of May Jill usually gives a tour I feel this would be a good time to verbalize that we will have an outreach.
Westfall – absolute no communications of this public outreach until after the bond measure.
Wyse – a great opportunity to get those that attend to reach out when ready to have them come back and join the conversation. **Keeney** - Preservation works is looking to do another Preservation Pub – have a speaker that does a presentation about some historic thing similar to the science pubs. I wanted to research historic cases done here bringing the life into the courthouse.
- X. Adjournment at 1142 hrs.