

Historical Buildings and Sites Commission
MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2021
5:15 pm Council Chambers

COMMISSIONERS:

Ward Warren (Chair)
Arden McConnell (Vice Chair)
Virginia Ford
Shirley Holzinger
Bill Richardson
Nathan Miller
Sandra Crowder

STAFF/LIAISON MEMBERS:

Bradley Clark – Director Community Development
Donna Rupp – Associate Planner
Ryan Nolan – Contract Planner

STAFF/LIAISON MEMBERS:

Joel King

GUESTS:

Sue Densmore, Friends of the OR. Caves & Chateau
Sulaiha McDougall, CoPA

1. **Roll Call** – Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Brad Clark absent.
2. **Introductions**
3. **Public Comment:** Sue Densmore updated the Commission on the restoration efforts on the Chateau at the Oregon Caves. All of the furniture is being stored in town if any Commissioners are interested in seeing it they should contact her. The furniture will be restored while the Chateau is under renovation. It will likely open back up in 2023, but the visitor center is open, and they encourage people to come out and hike. The caves have to remain closed because of Covid. She would like to make a presentation to the HBSC at some point in the future and bring in quarterly updates on the restoration progress.

4. **Approval of March Minutes:**

5.a. Correct Lisa’s name to “Woodruff” and the company name to “Logan Design.” Signs that were brought as samples are made from composite materials. Bottom of second paragraph under 5a, add: “Non-preferred materials will require HBSC review.”

6.a. Style of “California Spanish Stucco” was changed to “Spanish Modern/Revival.” The paragraph under the bullet points is updated to reflect “Chair Warren wants to keep it simple and that photos and bullet points will work.”

6g. Last line updated to read: “was discussed and agreed upon at past HBSC meetings.”

MOTION

Commissioner McConnell moved, and Commissioner Crowder seconded the motion to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes, as amended. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, Vice Chair McConnell, Commissioners Ford, Miller, Richardson, Crowder and Holzinger. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstain:** None
The motion passed.

5. **Action Items:**

- a. CoPA Alley Art presentation by Sulaiha McDougall. The location is the Osprey Alley behind The Haul restaurant. The metal sculptures are large wildflowers which will have some kind of

lighting and possibly a motion sensor, so they light up when people walk by. There will not be any murals on the walls of the alley. The existing trees will remain. Discussion about having security cameras installed. A neighboring business may be able to work with the City as they already have security cameras. Sulaiha said she will ask the City about installing them. Gates will not be installed on the alley. HBSC made the suggestion of adding trash receptacles. Question about how other cities have kept this type of art safe from vandalism. Sulaiha said she will check and get back to HBSC. Council member King suggested including Darlingtonia to the sculptures if the artist felt it would work. The artist commissioned for the work is Joseph Johnson with Natural Creations. The proposal is going to the City Council on May 19 for review and approval.

b. Follow up on City Council vote on CLG and Article 13; review public comments received from Historic District property and business owners.

Mailings with copies of proposed changes to Article 13 were sent to property owners who had not opted out and all business addresses in the Historic District at the request of City Council. Chair Warren said he believed the number of mailings was around 300, while staff liaison Rupp thought it was higher- around 800. (*Staff note – after the meeting it was confirmed to be approximately 200.*) Only one response was received which was from Nathan Miller, which was included in the packet. Below is a summary of HBSC comments on Mr. Miller's submitted comments:

1. HBSC believes that the text amendment would change property rights is a matter of opinion because city council is the final arbiter over property rights.
2. Regarding item #3 in the letter: HBSC does not have full discretion over the demolition process but offers guidance instead.
3. Regarding item #4 in the letter: HBSC is aware that several other Oregon municipalities do have "denial" as an option in their demolition ordinances and some also have stricter ordinances.
4. Regarding item #5 in the letter: Four buildings in the Historic District have received demolition approval during two separate HBSC hearings in the last few years.

HBSC does not agree that "previously agreed upon rights" are being taken away from property owners. All HBSC decisions are appealable to the City Council.

HBSC believes that Mr. Miller's personal project was improved by receiving input from HBSC. HBSC is in place to help preserve historic buildings and the denial of demolition allows for that.

c. Riverside Park National Register signage. Map and proofs of proposed signs were included in packet. HBSC chose the following: for the Sixth Street sign, they prefer option "A", which has the wording on top centered over the full sign width; for the sign on corner of Seventh and E. Park, they would prefer to have the sign replaced with a matching sign to the Sixth St. one, but if that is not possible because of budget, to add the new wording on top of the sign; and for the Vista entrance sign they prefer the one with brown background and white lettering (top left photo in packet). Commissioner McConnell also noted that perhaps the motel/hotel tax funds could be applied to the cost of these signs.

d. HBSC agreed to move the May meeting date to May 6.

e. Indian Marathon Marker. Discussion of marker proposed by E. Clampus Vitas, a non-profit organization that has secured funding to mark this historical event. Photos of other markers the group has installed were in the packet. HBSC prefers brick over the river rock but would also approve flagstone if brick is not possible. The funding was received from the Four Way Foundation with a deadline of beginning installation by June 1. E. Clampus Vitas would cover all costs. Discussion of location for the marker and agreed that it should be by the Welcome Center

on 6th, as that was the ending point of the original marathon. Chair Warren checked with ODOT about having another marathon in 2027 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the run. He said ODOT is in favor of doing that.

MOTION

Chair Warren moved, and Commissioner Crowder seconded the motion to recommend to Council that a historic marker for the Redwood Indian Marathon Run of 1927 be placed at the corner of 6th and G Streets, near the Welcome Center, and that the cost and labor will be provided by the historic group, E Clampus Vitas, with no cost to the City. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, Vice Chair McConnell, Commissioners Crowder, Ford, Miller, Richardson and Holzinger. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

The motion passed.

6. Matters from Commission Members and Staff:

- a. Conservation District Overlay – No updates from staff. Council member King would like to have it on the Council agenda in June. Still need follow up on from last meeting: If the district is created as a historic resource, would that address the clear and objective standards issue? Brad will look into it. Commissioner Miller suggested getting language from other jurisdictions that address this with clear and objective standards. Staff will look into it.
- b. County Courthouse – No new updates. HBSC would like to investigate having the courthouse designated as a national historic register property. Discussion on how to make that happen. With Riverside Park the City hired a consultant and Lora worked with him on the process. Request for staff to research the process for application.
- c. L Street Forest Service Compound (National Registry Property) – Building permits have been submitted and approved for three new structures. Chair Warren is under the impression that they have to be reviewed by the HBSC. Brad will have to get back to him with that answer.
- d. GP Water treatment plant – HBSC would also like to pursue same designation as mentioned for County Courthouse.
- e. Caveman Bridge Local Landmark – Staff forwarded the application for signature to ODOT. Chair Warren followed up the day before the meeting. The ODOT rep said she would put it forward for signature.

OTHER NOT ON AGENDA

- Commissioner McConnell would like to find out how to get a “Historic District” sign added to I-5 at exit 55. Ryan will contact ODOT with the request.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- a. Conservation District Design Overlay
- b. County Courthouse & Water Treatment Plant – Designations?
- c. L Street Forest Service Compound (National Registry Property) - Brad
- d. Indian marathon sign marker

8. Adjourn: 7:00 pm

Next Meeting: May 6, 2021

Summary minutes prepared by Donna Rupp, Associate Planner, Grants Pass Community Development.