

**Historical Buildings and Sites Commission
MEETING MINUTES
June 25, 2020 at 5:30 PM
Council Chambers**

COMMISSIONERS:

Ward Warren (Chair)
Rob Pell (Vice Chair)
Virginia Ford
Shirley Holzinger
Arden McConnell - Absent
Bill Richardson
Nathan Miller

STAFF/LIAISON MEMBERS:

Bradley Clark – Principal Planner
Donna Rupp – Associate Planner
Dennis Lewis – Contract Planner

STAFF/LIAISON MEMBERS:

City Councilor Barry Eames

GUESTS:

Bob Bell

1. **Roll Call** – Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 5:30.
2. **Introductions**
3. **Public Comment:** Mr. Bell presented his idea for naming the new Beacon Hill Park after U.S. Grant instead of proposed name. He shared his vision for a statue with a 10 foot tall base and landscaping, with the intent of having it be visible from I-5. He believes it will help increase tourism, as well as recognize the president who is the City's namesake.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
Meeting Minutes – May 14 and Special Meeting May 28. No changes.

Motion

Vice Chair Pell moved, and Chair Warren seconded the motion to approve the May 14 and May 28, 2020 minutes as presented. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Ford, Miller and Richardson. "NAYS": None. Abstain: Commissioner Holzinger. Absent: Commissioner McConnell.

The motion passed.

5. Action Items:

- a. Budget for plaques
Ward asked if there is a budget available for plaques and Brad said that there is about \$2500 remaining in the current budget which is available. The new Community Development budget (for FY starting July 1) also has funding to support the HBSC, in the \$5-6,000 range and does not need further Council approval.
- b. Local Landmarks
Discussion regarding adding plaques for sites that are no longer standing, vs. recognizing buildings and structures that are still there. The Commissioners agreed that focusing on the historic structures that are still standing should be the current goal for the HBSC.

Caveman Bowl and The Opera House should be added to the list.
Review of how the process for Local Landmark designation works. The owner has to give consent, but if they don't want to be a Local Landmark, the process stops. Ginger reminded staff that follow up on Croxton Memorial Park Local Landmark application is needed.

6. Matters from Commission Members and Staff

- a. Establish museum subcommittee
Discussion that there will need to be three members of the HBSC who want to get this going. As Arden is absent, will move item to next month.

- b. Update on CLG
HBSC was provided with new draft of changes to Article 13 for the CLG update. Dennis walked through the changes and explained the reasons for the time to integrate the states model with the existing Grants Pass ordinance.

Discussion of how the process works. Commissioners will need to provide resumes if haven't already.

Benefits of CLG – ability to apply for grants. Without it, Grants Pass has been leaving money on the table. Urgent that it get passed, especially because it has been worked on for a significant numbers of years.

Commissioner Miller pointed out several corrections and suggestions. Dennis made note of them and will make corrections.

- c. Update on Alley Activation Art
COPA provided update through email on 6/5: CoPA sent out a Request for Interest for the Alleyway Art project adjacent to The Haul and received 21 applications. Committee met on March 10th and reviewed all 21 applications and narrowed down to 5 candidates.
CoPA Sub-Committee interviewed the 5 candidates and will be sharing the results with the Committee on June 9, 2020.
Once the finalist has been selected, they will share the findings with HBSC.

- d. L Street USFS Compound
Ward mentioned that the property has recently sold. The HBSC allowed for demolition of some of the structures on the compound a few years ago. After demolition site was not developed further as promised. Ward expressed concern over future development and respecting that it is a National Historic Property.

- e. Potential changes to Development Code
Using the provided draft of Article 13 as a guide for changes, the HBSC directed staff to make the following changes:

13.453(1)(c)Materials requiring HBSC Review: ADD- (iii) Vinyl and plastics.
13.453(5) Awnings/Marquees ADD - /Canopies
13.453(5) Awnings/Marquees EDIT (c) – Vinyl and plastics are not recommended.
13.453(6) Signs REMOVE subsection (d) Shapes.

Commission requested that staff look up historic color palettes to make recommendations for updating wording in Section 13.453(4).

Discussion about editing the 13.460 Demolition Review Section, specifically the actions allowed by the HBSC in Section 13.463. During a recent demolition review, it came to the attention of the HBSC that they could not take the action to “deny” the application for a demolition. Commissioners discussed adding the “deny” option with the ability for the applicant to appeal the decision to the City Council, or create an option where applicant tries to sell it first, with a delay of 6-12 months.

Motion

Vice Chair Pell moved, and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion to add the option of “Deny” request for demolition of a structure within the Historic District to the Development Code. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Ford, Holzinger and Richardson. “NAYS”: Miller. Absent: Commissioner McConnell.

The motion passed.

- f. Recognition of President U.S. Grant
Commission discussed the ideas presented by Mr. Bell. While some of his ideas may require a bigger budget than what is currently available, the name would not cost anything and be a good first step at recognizing the City’s namesake. Commissioner Ford mentioned that her Great, Great Grandfather helped in naming the city.

Brad mentioned to Mr. Bell that he should also contact the Parks Committee with his idea. Mr. Bell said that he had had some trouble in the past getting response from City employees.

Motion

Chair Warren moved, and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion to recommend to Council that the Beacon Hill Park be named Grant Park. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Warren, Vice Chair Pell, Commissioners Ford, Miller, Holzinger and Richardson. “NAYS”: None. Absent: Commissioner McConnell.

The motion passed.

- g. Conservation District Overlay
This is considered top goal for the HBSC for the year. Discussion about need for the overlay with the upcoming increase in density that will be mandated by the state. Guidelines need to be simple. Commissioner Miller asked if the expansion will create the need for expanding the size of the Commission. Chair Ward expressed that if the guidelines are crafted appropriately that there will be less conflict and reduce mitigation. Staff noted that the list of property owners in the proposed overlay district is available for future outreach efforts.
- h. Other items
Staff informed the HBSC that the nomination for National Register for Riverside Park was approved by the state commission and now it will be forwarded to the National Park Service with a positive recommendation.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Conservation District – Begin guidelines process
- b. Museum subcommittee
- c. Update on local landmarks
- d. Review of updated Article 13 and CLG changes

8. Adjourn: 7:40 pm

Next Meeting: July 16, 2020

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