



Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Commission

Cowlitz County Administration Building – Kelso, WA

Summary
August 10, 2023

10:00 am: ROLL CALL: Chair Williamson called the meeting to order.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chair – Harvey Williamson
Erin Thoeny Joel Rupley
Bill Watson—Cowlitz Museum
Vice Chair- Butch Ogden

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Dr. David Rice

Guests: Rose Valley Grange- Tammi Johnson, Nichole

STAFF PRESENT: Adam Trimble – Historic Preservation Officer, Paul Galli – County Surveyor, Public Works,

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARIES: The minutes were shared and approved.

SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:

Reports from Staff:

- HPC Staff (Adam Trimble)
 - o July Outreach Events: The group shared their accounts of the Fairs and Ryderwood Centennial events and contacts and leads made.
 - o Commission members

Public Comment:

Nichole with Rose Valley Grange shared about the grange hall and its failed septic system and HVAC issues. The group has a big fundraising need to be open again. There are about 6-8 active members right now with 30 total. The building does have historical records and pieces from the Valley. The grange has been supported by the County government and the Cowlitz Tribe so far. Erin Thoeny advice on the possibility of raising funds with a Bingo night and other ideas.

Harve discussed ideas about adaptive re-use of the building for an emergency warming or cooling shelter, an evacuation area. Staff suggested it could be a high-speed internet hub. Butch discussed the many progressive initiatives that Washington State Granges accomplished in the state.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Outreach and education ideas brainstorming

The group continued discussion on ideas for outreach to youth. The idea of partnering with a school such as Toutle Schools on a STEM night considered again. Butch mentioned that the Castle Rock schools ag program is another possible partner. The Cowlitz Museum or local logging companies might be interested in helping with exhibits of

equipment old and new.

Cowlitz Trails Interpretive Panels:

- Adam still working with DAHP to confirm if funds available.

2024 CLG Grant:

- The group discussed the Grange inventory project and directed staff to prepare or prepare and send a letter to the granges in the county to start gauging their interest. Erin pointed out that some granges are in City limits and we have no interlocal agreements to list or work with properties outside county jurisdiction.

Historic Property Inventory

- Harve suggested the group hold a workshop in November to go over next steps. The commissioners agreed.

Final Comments:

Staff asked the commissioners to consider people to nominate for the Commission who could serve as a professional member.

The Pomona Grange picnic details were shared.

Paul Gali, staff, noted that Dr. Rice had been working with an archaeologist on a Rose Valley caves project and that it would be good to contact that person (Mary) if we have her contact.

ADJOURNMENT: at 10:58 am.