

Port Orford Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Commissioners Present: Rick Cook (Chair), Steve Roemen, Beverly Bacak, Joyce Spicer, Maurisa Markstein

Meeting called to order by Chair Cook at 9:31 am.

1. Minutes of May 26, 2023 meeting unanimously approved with no corrections.

2. Old Business

Joe Marsh's bid was accepted and the Lindberg house is scheduled for demolition in July. Chair Cook will work with Marsh to salvage architectural artifacts and other Lindberg house items during demolition.

Chair Cook reported that the Guerin house at the corner of Washington and 7th, built by McGill, will also be demolished soon. And the Hank Allard house on Jackson at 8th, built by Beecher Jess, is also slated for demolition. This house has been vacant and in serious disrepair.

3. Report on Battle Rock Sign

Chair Cook was unable to attend the June Parks Commission meeting. Will attend the July meeting.

Contact at Siletz, who is also on the Tribal Council, has not yet responded in writing. Other tribal members see replacing the Battle Rock sign as an opportunity for updating the language and rewriting the narrative.

Port Orford Main Street Revitalization Association (POMSRA) will now manage Visitor Center at the Battle Rock Wayside. Main Street met recently with Redfish Rocks, Parks Commission, and City Administrator John Hutt.

HPC will continue to pursue the possibility of display space at the Visitor Center for a local history section. HPC commissioners will brainstorm what sorts of displays we might create and what artifacts to include.

4. Port Orford Historic Resource Survey

Chair Cook has added multiple new listings to the unofficial local online historic resources database. Added were photos and additional material. 60 structures were added, along with two sites, Fort Orford on the bluff and Castaway Lodge. The planned October HPC Public Forum will incorporate many of these photographs in the presentation.

Chair Cook reported that during World War II, Castaway was used by the local Coast Guard as additional housing to augment that on Coast Guard hill. There were dog kennels behind the lodge. The Coast Guard patrolled the beaches using dogs that were housed in the kennels.

5. New Business

Chair Cook suggested that a separate survey be done of the Hamlet. An architect was hired to make the homes unique. The homes were built for the mill workers who worked

at the nearby Buffington mill, built by Gilbert Gable. Tim Sparks, who lives in the home once owned by his parents, knows a lot about the Hamlet.

The online historic photos include a photo of the original plat map for The Hamlet. Consensus of the commission is to do a separate survey to highlight the uniqueness of this neighborhood.

Alan Mitchell reported that Gilbert Gable lived in the Craftsman style house on the northwest corner of Idaho and 12th Street. Commissioners are attempting to establish that the little theater Gable built for his wife was built at this house and later moved to the 600 block of Oregon Street. The search will continue for details of this move.

Commissioner Markstein raised the issue of the possibility of protecting the old growth trees that are on city property. The city currently has no ordinance regarding tree removal.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:30am

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 9:30am, City Council Chambers

Submitted by Commissioner Bacak, July 22, 2023