

Members Present: Jennifer Brent, George Cushing, Neil Poulsen, Holly Tsur (two vacancies)
Members Excused: Kaylene Toews
Staff Present: James Reitz
Council Liaison: Richard Kidd was present
Citizens Present: 02 (Phil Clark and Micah Dougherty)

1. **Call to Order:** Tsur opened the meeting at 7:25 p.m. **The meeting minutes of January 27, 2015, were approved with minor corrections.**

2. **Citizen Communication:** None.

3. **ViewHistorical Forest Grove Presentation:** Phil Clark and Micah Dougherty gave a presentation about their website: ViewHistorical.com. Phil said he had restored a historic home at 2123 15th Avenue and while doing so concluded that he had a desire to share information he found while rehabbing the home. He determined that there was no common repository for such information that would be easily obtainable by others. In 2013 he and Micah formed a corporation to develop a website; it went live last year. Since then they have worked with the Friends of Historic Forest Grove and as a result, much information has been uploaded. They described the site as a place where curators of historic properties could add information and photos of historic structures. They are currently established here but are also working in Newberg, McMinnville and Baker City to add sites from those areas. They are supported by local businesses that have interests in historic properties, noting that the Forest Grove site is sponsored by a contractor, a design firm and a painter. Their intention is to work closely with historical organizations with primary content added by property owners. They demonstrated how easy it is to upload photos to the web site and showed photos of various homes in the area and from some other cities.

The Board was impressed with the site and saw its value. How the Board could or might choose to work with them would have to be determined at a later date. The Board did agree to add their link to the HLB webpage.

4. Action Items / Discussion:

- A. Review and Adopt Annual Goals and Tasks** - Tsur wasn't sure the Friends had any projects that the Board could help further, but Kidd assured her that the Friends were very much interested in continuing their close relationship with the Board. The goals and tasks as written were approved by unanimous consent.

- B. Winter Newsletter** - The Winter issue has been completed and is in distribution. Brent offered to take before-and-after photos of renovation grant homes for future issues. Tsur asked Cushing about the proposed buildings envelope article for the Spring issue. Cushing suggested we consider an earthquake preparedness article. Tsur noted that we have to firm up the content at next meeting.

- C. Preservation Month / Stewart Award.** It was noted we need to firm up any plans other than the banner by the next meeting. For the Stewart Award, it was suggested we consider ViewHistorical.com. All agreed to give it some thought. One question, perhaps too soon to tell, is their long-term ability to keep the site viable.

- D. CEP Application.** Tsur and Brent agreed to start working on the application; it was noted that with our small membership at present only two could be on the subcommittee at a time, although input from everyone would be welcomed. Kidd said that the deadline for submissions would be pushed back due to a new format for the application review process.

- E. Revitalize Main Street Act (SB 565)** – Reitz described the proposal to establish a state tax credit program for historic, income-generating buildings such as those in downtown. The Board agreed to individually send support for the act. **Cushing/Poulsen for the Board to officially send support as well. Motion carried unanimously.** Tsur as chair would forward the Board's support.

5. Old Business / New Business:

- Council Liaison Report: Kidd said that he understood that the joint work session with Board, Planning Commission and City Council went well. He said the CEP grant process was going to be changed to include a Metro councilor as a reviewer, along with the City Council; that the review criteria would be changing; and that approximately twice as much money would be available overall, although individual grant amounts might not change that much.

Staff Update / 2015-16 SHPO Grant Application: Reitz said that a grant request of \$13,000 had been submitted to SHPO. Of that, \$3,000 was included for the newsletter, and a public education effort about the guidelines and standards (assuming they are adopted); information would be provided to local Realtors as well. Another \$10,000 would be used to contract with a consultant to help the Board develop a long-range strategic plan. That effort would begin sometime in late summer.

- Cushing said that he'd had a preliminary conversation with Fire Marshal Dave Nemeyer about participating in the Fire Department open house; Dave was very receptive. The open house would be sometime in October and he agreed we could have two or three booths for organizations providing earthquake preparedness information. The Board also suggested adding a contractor who does retrofits, an insurance representative, and possibly someone from Northwest Natural Gas.

6. Adjournment: The February 24, 2015 meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by George Cushing, Secretary