

APPROVED

Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board
Community Auditorium, 1915 Main Street
October 24, 2017 -- 7:15 P.M. Page 1 of 2

Members Present: Jennifer Brent, George Cushing, Kelsey Trostle, Holly Tsur
Members Excused: MJ Guidetti-Clapshaw, Roman Ozeruga, Larissa Whalen Garfias
Staff Present: James Reitz
Council Liaison: Tom Johnston
Citizens Present: 05

1. **Call to Order:** Tsur opened the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

2. **Citizen Communication:**

3. **Action Items / Discussion:**

A. **Preservation Grant Request – Chandler House at 1839 Ash Street (Washington County tax lot 1S306BA06800). Applicants: Jon and Melanie Stagnitti. File Number 311-17-000051-PLNG.** Jon Stagnitti described his re-roofing project. He noted there were many layers of roofing and they planned to remove them all down to the rafters, and replace the sheathing with plywood (not OSB) for a top-quality repair. He added that in addition to the roof project other work needs to be done, primarily repair of the front porch, but the roof project has priority.

He said he planned to have the chimneys removed as they were no longer used; the Board questioned that action extensively. Reitz read the relevant sections of the Design Standards which indicated the recommend procedure for chimneys was to repair them, or if too far deteriorated, replace them with like-construction. Stagnitti said that the fireplaces were removed a long time ago (before they owned the house) and the support system for them was unknown. As the house has electric heat, there was no mechanical need for the chimneys.

Stagnitti showed photos that indicated the chimneys were in extremely poor condition; it appeared that in addition to the pointing (the mortar holding them together) even the bricks appeared to be deteriorated. He noted that the chimneys were not readily visible from the street, being on the back side of the east/west ridgeline. He noted that one of the chimneys could hardly be seen from Ash Street (the front of the house) and the other not at all from that side. The only real view of the chimneys was from 19th Avenue, and then only if one was really looking for them. It was noted that one chimney had a distinctive cap but it appeared to be a later addition and possibly not original to the home. Other than that, the chimneys were plain, square-shaped and barely reached over the ridgeline.

The Board discussed the safety issues associated with the chimneys' current condition; that their features were non-distinctive; and that they were not readily visible from the street. For those reasons the Board concluded that it would be acceptable to remove them. **Cushing/Trostle to approve removal of the chimneys from the house at 1839 Ash Street. Motion carried unanimously.**

Brent/Trostle to award a \$1,000 grant for the re-roofing project. Motion carried unanimously.

B. **Preservation Grant Request – Agnes Moore House at 2103 15th Avenue (Washington County tax lot 1S306BD12500). Applicant: Bill Youngs. File Number 311-17-000052-PLNG.** Bill Youngs described his porch deck board repair project. He noted that the deck boards were tongue-and-grove with the fasteners toenailed in; they appear to have rusted out and so were not holding the boards together so there was a lot of spring in them. His contractor planned to install hidden fasteners from underneath the porch to reattach the boards. He noted that although tight, there was room to get underneath and do the work. He then planned to install new lattice-type screening in place of the foundation plywood to enable better ventilation. **Cushing/Brent to award a \$300 grant. Motion carried unanimously.**

- C. **Original Town Resurvey Update:** Reitz reported that the consultants were a bit behind schedule and would be attending with results at next meeting in November.
- D. **Media Outreach – Editorial Calendar:** Trostle said she had been in contact with the *News Times* editor and that a delay in the Anderson Building article was acceptable as they have a backlog of articles at this time. Cushing made arrangements to contact Ozeruga's assistant to arrange an interview for some further information for the article. Trostle said she had received no further information from the FHFG of edits required for the *How to Sell Your Historic Home* article; she will follow-up.

Tsur noted that 2018 was not far off, and that the Board needs to begin thinking about articles for next year. Possible topics suggested included the Preservation Grants and homes that had received grants in the past year; and an article on a potential downtown district would be good but the content would have to be determined. Johnston recommended that the Board give a presentation to the Council about the advantages of a downtown district, and suggested that the same presentation could be given to the Chamber of Commerce. Tsur closed the discussion by commenting that we need to bring more ideas for articles to the next meeting.

4. Old Business/New Business:

- Approval of HLB Meeting Minutes. The meeting minutes of September 26, 2017 were approved with minor corrections.
- Council Liaison Report: Johnston discussed city business including the Public Safety Levy; new Community Development Director Bryan Pohl; and the citizen involvement committee. He noted an ODOT grant request for the town center was declined, but in the past the City has brought in consultants and few ideas had been implemented. The Council has directed staff to research ideas in their realm of expertise.

On another matter, he suggested that the local cemeteries could become recognized by the State as Historic Cemeteries, and suggested the Board (perhaps in conjunction with the FHFG) might want to take up that task.

- FHFG Report: No report as Melody Haveluck was not in attendance.
- Staff Update: Reitz announced that Guidetti-Clapshaw had tendered her resignation due to other commitments. He also reminded the Board that the December meeting will be the third Tuesday (the 19th) due to the holiday.
- Public Safety Open House: Cushing reported that it was very successful. He showed the earthquake retrofit house poster he prepared from the wonderful photos that Tsur had provided. He noted that Northwest Natural Gas attended, as did Clean Water Services with information about the Hagg Lake dam project. He said that the open house was only concerned with public safety and so many vendors such as the library and aquatic center were not in attendance as they had been in the past, so the Board's emphasis on earthquake safety was very appropriate. He described the earthquake safety preparedness kit that Whalen-Garfias prepared and noted that it was very much enjoyed by children, and that she also distributed many handouts with recommendations for what a preparedness kit should include.

5. Adjournment:

The October 24, 2017 meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

These minutes respectively submitted by George Cushing, Secretary