



**CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Meeting Held: September 3, 2013

Members Present:	Steve Kaiser, Doug Wilson, Eric Lanciault, Andy Gregg and Robert Hinds
Members Excused:	Sarah Fox
Staff Present:	Jacqui Kamp, Clark County; Jan Bader, City of Vancouver
Volunteers:	
Guests:	Lisa Schmidt

**I. Roll Call & Introductions –**

**II. July 9, 2013 Minutes:** Eric made the motion to approve with noted corrections, Doug seconded.

**III. Public Comment –** None

**IV. City Liaison –** See “Outreach” under Old Business & Updates

**V. Public Hearing**

- Clark County Poor Farm (a.k.a. 78<sup>th</sup> Street Heritage Farm): Nomination to the Clark County Heritage Register

Jacqui Kamp, County Planner II, summarized the Clark County Department of Community Planning Staff Report and Recommendation to the Historic Preservation Commission dated September 3, 2013. Staff noted that the Clark County Poor Farm is located at 1919 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, parcels 148084000 and 147938000, which include what we know today as the 78<sup>th</sup> Street Heritage Farm and Hazel Dell Park. Hazel Dell Park is included as it was part of the original 99+ acres that made up the Poor Farm site and was also part of the National Register listing for the historic district.

The site is being nominated to the Clark County Heritage Register (CCHR). The nomination includes the main building and its associated outbuildings (a detached garage and milk house), the bunk house, hog barn, machine shed, poor farm cemetery and Hazel Dell Park.

The Clark County Poor Farm and Cemetery is an historic resource located at the Clark County 78th Street Heritage Farm, formerly occupied by Washington State University. The property dates back to 1873 when a local resident who owned the original donation land claim settled a \$400 county judgment by deeding the county 100 acres of land. This property became the Poor Farm and a building was erected to house the poor.

The Clark County Heritage Register nomination criteria were presented to the Commission in the staff report. Staff and the applicant found that the nomination met number 1 of the Statement of Significance criteria. It is listed below.

1. *Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.*

Staff stated findings indicating that the Clark County Poor Farm meets all four of the criteria and the adopted Rules and Regulations of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission. Staff recommended approval of listing of the Clark County Poor Farm to the Clark County Heritage Register based on the findings.

- Commissioner Wilson asked if the criteria used was the same for the National Register. He confirmed with staff that it is locally significant for its association with social welfare and early twentieth century poor farm relief programs.
- Commissioner Lanciault questioned what the future was for the greenhouses that are non-contributing buildings and what review authority the commission will have over those structures. Staff explained that the greenhouses were not contributing structures or historically significant to the poor farm and may need to be replaced over time. Staff has asked the county to provide the Historic Preservation Commission an opportunity to review any modifications to the property overall and they will of course review any proposed changes/modifications of any of the historic structures or new structures through the required design review process, per the Historic Preservation Code.
- Commissioner Lanciault talked about a potential future scenario of a modification to one of the greenhouses in the next twenty years. Those structures may become historically significance in its own right over time – them what? He further mentioned that he would guess that those structures would be likely to fall into disrepair and have to be removed. He asked about the contributing buildings. Is there any leverage with maintaining those non-contributing buildings because they are part of the overall historic site? Commissioner Wilson mentioned that the local and national designation can open up opportunities for grants to help maintain the structures. Staff explained that there is also language in the code that requires property owners to keep the property maintained and up to code.
- Commissioner Kaiser asked to verify the contributing buildings as part of the nomination. Staff explained that it was the administration building, the garage/milk house, the machine shed, hog barn, duplex, cemetery and Hazel Dell Park (as a contributing site).
- Staff read a note that was sent in regarding the proposed nomination of the farm to the local register. *"Hi Jacqui, we heartily support this effort and appreciate all the work that has gone into the farm area in recent years. We live in the mobile park just west of the park. Husband recuperating from surgery so we can't come but we appreciate your work. It is nice also to see the Canada geese fly in as they use the area in fall and winter."* – Ted & Paula Kobernick
- Lisa Schmidt, 1815 NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Circle, Vancouver, a neighbor of the property, stated she would like to see things kept in place and nothing altered of historic significance. The history of the site was one reason she moved next door to the farm. She asked who maintained the property. Staff explained that the county is responsible for the maintenance, however they do lease the office spaces to various agencies and there are different groups that work on various programming on the farm. Mrs. Schmidt wanted to confirm/dispel some rumors she had heard from neighbors regarding a plan to put a research facility on the site. Staff explained that during the concept planning for the property-a citizen advisory committee working with the community developed a concept vision for the site. One of the possibilities was to place a community center on the property. However, it is only conceptual in nature and has never moved any further than as a concept. Commissioner Gregg explained that WSU had their agricultural research center there for many years and may be what the confusion is all about.
- Mrs. Schmidt informed the commission that she is sometimes concerned about the cemetery and that she has tried to help maintain the vegetation and markers. Staff explained how the large boulder is actually a memorial to the cemetery and was placed there in the late 1960s. Staff further explained that the grave markers visible were actually placed by family members in recent years who researched and found that their family member was buried at the poor farm cemetery. However it is unclear whether these new grave markers actually mark the grave of that person as there are no burial records on who lies where.
- With no further comments, the public comment period was closed.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the nomination of the Clark County Poor Farm to the Clark County Heritage Register. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaiser.

**VOTE: Gregg-AYE, Lanciault- AYE, Wilson-AYE, Kaiser-AYE, Hinds-AYE**

**VI. Old Business & Updates**

• Outreach:

- i. **Tour through Time and Grant:** Jan is working with her staff on the tour through time brochure. She will share her progress as it moves forward. She also informed the commission that the city is applying for a Clark County Historical Promotion grant for interpretive panels for the witness tree, Esther and Amos Short, Slocum House and possibly the Kiggins Theater. Andy volunteered to assist with the text for the Kiggins Theater panel, if needed. Jan received a quote of \$1500 for the four panels.
- ii. **Museum sponsorships:** Jan polled the commission on the idea of sponsoring the Clark County Historical Museum again for their walking tour and lectures. The walking tours have been extremely successful. The sponsorship for the walking tour would be \$1,000 and the lectures would be \$2000. The Commission was in favor of the sponsorships for the museum.
- iii. **Mobile app:** Jacqui updated the commission on her meeting with Brett Oppegaard from Washington State University-Vancouver. Dr. Oppegaard worked with the National Park Service and Fort Vancouver on developing a mobile app for the village. He gave some initial input as to the process of developing an app for the historic preservation program. He believed that people liked to be part of the learning process and have it be more interactive than just driving around and looking at a house from your car. He suggested the possibility of focusing it on one site to learn more about it. Jacqui shared with the commission a tentative plan for a more in-depth interpretation of the poor farm. They have already developed an Interpretive Plan for the Heritage Trail, but why not start doing some interpretation without the design of the trail? The commission liked the idea and tasked staff to pull together a more definitive scope of work for review. Steve suggested involving Leadership Clark County.

**VII. New Business & Announcements**

- Chair/Vice Chair elections: Steve Kaiser nominated Andy Gregg as Chair and Doug Wilson as Vice Chair. Robert seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**VIII. Adjournment**

- Doug made a motion to adjourn. Eric seconded the motion. All were in favor.