

Oak Lodge History Detectives

Minutes December 14, 2017

Meeting called to order by Chair Mike Schmeer at 7:00 pm. Attendees introduced themselves. The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$2,478.87 with \$1,000 held in reserve for Web page development and update. The Secretary had distributed October and November 2017 minutes. There being no calls for corrections or additions, the minutes were approved.

Chair reported there are 48 current members and 36 expired memberships. Fourteen members and three guests were in attendance.

Old Business

Members were reminded to send their agenda items to the chair at least two days before the next meeting (February 8, 2018) to be added to the agenda.

Mike noted there has been no further nominations for the position of Co-chair.

As a follow-up to discussion of possibly adding the Oak Grove Garden Club 1960 cookbook to the OLHD website, Mike has contacted the Oak Grove Garden Club and received tentative approval. They were also interested in any funds that could be raised if it were to be sold, but needed to discuss this at their next meeting. Jan Lindstrom, who had agreed to develop a proposal for the OLHD, said she would need to wait for the Garden Club's response. There was discussion about the viability of this project as a fund raiser versus simply placing a scanned version on the Website for public use.

Members asked if the video of the September meeting "Reminiscing the Past and Assisting the Future" could be shown as well as an opportunity to view Pat Kennedy's map collection and notes for Oak Grove. Baldwin believes he has the maps.

There was a brief discussion concerning the availability of aerial photographs of the Oak Grove-Jennings Lodge area. It was mentioned that the Leonard Delany photographs were given to the Oregon Historical Society.

New Business

The Milwaukie History Museum is undergoing redesign of its facility and has offered space for historic materials and display to the OLHD. Members cited concern for any materials placed there. There was little interest among the members.

OLHD has received an inquiry concerning any information about a service station at the NE corner of River Road and Oak Grove Blvd. operated by Roy Law. No one present had any history to share but anyone who knows something should pass it on to Mike Schmeer.

Concord Partnership

The Chair announced that eighteen Concord Stakeholders groups have been established. He has been appointed to one representing OLHD interests in use of the property. Our members now have an

opportunity to join in future library planning at a public meeting at Rex Putnam High School, 6:30 pm on January 29. Gladstone residents will meet on January 11 to consider their options. OLHD members have been involved with saving Concord School for some time and are partners in this effort. There has been discussion of locating the library at Stringfield Park rather than Concord School grounds.

The Chair introduced Oak Grove resident Gary Blair. Gary is involved with the Oak Grove/Jennings Lodge Neighborhood Livability Project, but was present to talk about his concerns about tree loss in unincorporated Clackamas County and, in particular, the Oaks trees which are being removed in Oak Grove. There is a critical need to create a County ordinance against tree removal by developers and property owners. The Chair suggested this was a good time to pursue support by the County Commissioners for such an ordinance. It was noted that the Jennings Lodge CPO included the need for an ordinance in its recommendation to the County.

There were comments and suggestions about this issue as well as educating home owners about the value and care of their trees. Gary urged the promotion of planting Oak trees in Oak Grove.

It was suggested design overlays might be used to protect large lots from tree removal. It was noted that the Planning Commission has a "bible" of ordinances that they use in approving applications by developers. Without an ordinance there is nothing they can do. Even with an ordinance a property owner can remove trees and then later start a development process.

Boardman's Addition

The Chair introduced Amanda Gresen, property owner in Boardman's Addition, Jennings Lodge. She has expressed an interest to learning why Boardman's Addition has more tree coverage than areas outside.

Mike explained that until the trolley line came Oak Grove was mainly farm acreage. It was lucrative for property owners to sell their farmland for development. In Jennings Lodge subdivision began in 1903-04. Because Boardman land contained two large dairy farms, the subdivision began later.

Historic Review Board

Mike announced that Amanda Gresen is the newest appointment to the Historic Review Board. He has hoped the conflict with OLHD meeting dates could be resolved with new county staff now that Linda Preisz has retired. However, Martha Waldemar reported that staff has not yet been assigned to take on the Board's oversight but will continue to urge to resolve the meeting date conflict.

OLHD and the Section 106 Review Process

Mike introduced Lisa Bentley who had prepared a presentation on the Federal Section 106 Review Process.

The National Historic Preservation Act was passed in 1966. It created the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks and the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). It also provides for a Section 106 Review Process which requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertaking on historic properties.

Currently undergoing the Section 106 Process is the Jennings Lodge Camp Meeting Site. The developer, Lennar NW, purchased this property from the owner in 2013. The Camp was determined to be eligible for National Historic District Status in 2017. The site consists of 16 plus acres with 17 buildings

determined historically significant and 350 trees at risk for removal. The land was purchased in late 1904 from Addie Jennings Hodgkin.

Despite efforts by the OLHD and others, the County's Hearing Examiner determined the developer could move ahead with its development of 72 houses. However, to allow overflow rainwater from the development to empty into the Willamette River, Lennar NW applied for an outfall permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers which triggered a Section 106 Review to:

Identify what will be affected if Lennar NW proceeds with its plans;

Identify ways to minimize the adverse effects to historic buildings and that part of the grounds which may be determined to be the most important part of the historic district; and

Mitigate for whatever adverse effects are decided to be unavoidable.

Thanks to Grover Bornefeld, Jane Morrison, Lisa Bentley and others associated with the OLHD and Jennings Lodge CPO for making sure that a Section 106 Review occurred.

Biweekly conference telephone calls of interested parties have been set up by the US Army Corps of Engineers to include representatives of the National Historic Trust, the American Council on Historic Preservation, Oregon SHPO, Jennings Lodge CPO, OLHD, Lennar NW, and others.

Lisa noted it may take another two years for the review process to be completed.

There are no consequences nor liability to the OLHD for its involvement in the Section 106 process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Piper, Secretary