



Minutes

DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
DESCHUTES SERVICES CENTER  
1300 NW WALL STREET, BEND, OREGON, 97703  
NOVEMBER 18, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN PERSON, ELECTRONICALLY, AND BY PHONE. IT WAS AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDED AND CAN BE ACCESSED AT THE DESCHUTES COUNTY MEETING PORTAL WEBSITE [WWW.DESCHUTES.ORG/MEETINGS](http://WWW.DESCHUTES.ORG/MEETINGS)

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I. **Call to order**

Chair Rachel Stemach call the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Historic Landmarks Commissioners present in-person: Chair Stemach, Lily Syphers, Eli Ashley, Christine Horting-Jones and Marc Hudson. Commissioner present via Zoom: Lore Christopher, Vice Chair Schmidling. Staff present: Tanya Saltzman, Senior Planner and Will Groves, Planning Manager.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Syphers motioned to approve the minutes from August 5, 2024, Commissioner Ashley seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. **Public Comment**

None

IV. **Action Items**

1. ***State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Presentation***

- Presenter: Kuri Gill, SHPO Grants and Outreach Coordinator
- Summary: Kuri Gill Provided an overview of Oregon’s historic preservation program and the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, emphasizing funding opportunities for surveys, public education, and rehabilitation of historic properties
- Commissioners inquired about the alignment of CLG projects with Deschutes County’s priorities, and Gill confirmed that projects focusing on local preservation goals would be strongly supported by SHPO funding.

2. ***Guidelines and Recommendations for Wildfire Resiliency in Sisters***

- Presenter: Emelia Shoup, Associate Planner, City of Sisters
- Summary: Shoup presented findings from the report, *Guidelines & Recommendations for Wildfire Resiliency of Historic Resources in Sisters*. The report, funded through a CLG grant, addressed the challenges of balancing wildfire mitigation measures with the preservation of historic architecture. Key recommendations included:

- Using fire-resistant materials such as fiber cement siding or masonry while retaining the Western Design Theme.
- Implementing defensible space standards by removing flammable vegetation and ensuring adequate building setbacks.
- Exploring innovative solutions like “shou sugi ban” (charred wood) for wooden cladding to maintain aesthetic integrity while improving fire resistance.
- Commissioners discussed potential applications of the guidelines to historic properties throughout Deschutes County and suggested a follow-up meeting to consider broader implementation.

### **3. Goal 5 Cultural Areas Rulemaking Update**

- Presenter: Tanya Saltzman
- Summary: Saltzman provided an update on the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Goal 5 rulemaking process, which aims to improve the identification and protection of culturally significant areas.
  - The draft rules outline processes for inventorying archaeological resources and cultural landscapes.
  - Public hearings were held in September and October 2024, with final hearing scheduled for December 2024.
- Commissioners expressed interest in how the rule changes would impact local historic preservation and discussed potential partnerships with tribal organizations to enhance resource inventories.

### **4. Subcommittee Roundup**

- Reports:
  - **Cultural Resources Subcommittee:** Commissioner Hudson shared progress on identifying new sites for potential historic designation.
  - **Wildfire and Preservation Subcommittee:** Commissioners Ashley and Syphers discussed ways to disseminate information concerning wildfire resiliency and risk to the public, including potential property reviews by either staff or volunteers.
  - **Public Awareness Subcommittee:** Commissioner Syphers proposed a public education subcommittee for Preservation Month 2025. Potentially in place of the General Public Awareness subcommittee. This will be undertaken by Commissioners Stemach, Ashley and Syphers.

### **5. 2025-26 CLG Grant Discussion**

- Facilitator: Tanya Saltzman, Senior Planner
- Summary: Staff initiated a brainstorming session for the upcoming CLG grant application cycle, including ideas such as:
  - Expanding the County’s historic resources inventory.
  - Developing wildfire mitigation guidelines tailored to historic properties.
  - Hosting community workshops on preservation best practices.
  - Training opportunities for staff and commissioners.
- Commissioners will submit any CLG grant ideas to Tanya by December 18.
- A special HLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 6, 2025, to further discuss project ideas.
- The HLC will finalize the project list at their February 2025 meeting.

## **V. Adjourn**

Chair Stemach adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tracy Griffin, Administrative Assistant

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