

**CITY OF NEWPORT
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2015
REGULAR MEETING**

The November 18, 2015 regular meeting of the Newport Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order by Chairperson Linda Michie at 5:00 p.m. in the council chamber of the Newport City Hall.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Linda Michie (chair), Fred Leimbeck, Joann Bailey, and Mary Ann Newman.

Member Beverly Bartl was absent.

Also present: Bill Sumner (council liaison) and Robert Vogel (consultant).

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 9, 2015 regular meeting were reviewed and approved as mailed.

CLG annual report

Consultant Vogel distributed copies of the city's Certified Local Government (CLG) annual report for federal fiscal year 2015. The report has been transmitted to the State Historic Preservation Office.

Johnson House demolition

Consultant Vogel provided an update on the status of the former Loren Johnson house, 331 7th Street, which the city expects to demolish before the end of the year. Demolition will include underground utilities. An effort will be made to salvage as much of the old timber framing as possible. The city plans to market part of the Johnson property for residential development.

Historic properties inventory

The inventory of historic properties deemed worthy of preservation was discussed. To increase public awareness of the purpose of the city's preservation program, Consultant Vogel will distribute a questionnaire to owners of properties designated or determined eligible for designation as Newport Heritage Landmarks. Members also expressed interest in producing a Geographic Information System (GIS) map identifying buildings over 50 years old.

Railroad heritage

There was a brief discussion of identifying potential partners for celebrating the sesquicentennial of railroading in Newport during 2016-2018.

Mill Pond

City staff have asked the Commission to consider holding a joint meeting with the Park Board to discuss long-range plans for public use of the city-owned lands at the historic Mill Pond site.

The consensus was to hold an open house focusing on the historical and natural resource values of the site, followed by a stakeholders' meeting to include the Park Board and other interested organizations.

Annual meeting

The HPC's annual meeting will be Wednesday, January 13 at 5:00 p.m. Because Chairperson Michie will be absent, Vice Chairperson Bailey will preside.

Library presentations

Consultant Vogel will present a talk on the role of climate in local history at the Newport Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 29. After discussion, it was agreed that the HPC will sponsor a year-long series of history talks at the Newport Library in 2016; the programs will be offered in the evening on the Commission's regular meeting days in January, March, May, July, September and November.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant