

City of Newberg

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM.

Roll Call

City Recorder Rachel Thomas conducted the roll call. Present: Bob Woodruff, Phoenix Lamouche, Robyn Wheatley, and Karen Tozer. Absent: Britta Mansfield and Debra Buerkle.

Public Comments

No public comment requests were received.

New Business

CASA Historic Homes Tour- Daniel Ruiz

Daniel Ruiz from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) was not present to present. City Recorder Rachel Thomas explained that CASA is planning historic home tours as a fundraiser and hopes to include Newberg this year. They are seeking homes willing to participate in the tour, where visitors receive a map of homes that are open for public viewing, with hosts explaining the history of each property. City Recorder Thomas requested commission members suggest potential participating homes and noted they may need volunteers to assist with the event.

Updates from Staff

CLG Grant

City Recorder Rachel Thomas reported that the city applied for a Certified Local Government grant requesting approximately \$11,000 of the available \$16,000, with the city providing matching funds. The application was submitted last week for updates to the historic resource inventory to add mid-century modern properties. The city's GIS specialist has identified eligible neighborhoods and homes, including properties built by Robert Rummer, a notable mid-century modern architect in the area. Results will be announced in April.

ODOT Determination of Eligibility for Historic Downtown Designation

City Recorder Rachel Thomas shared that ODOT is conducting Section 106 federal compliance work due to ADA ramp projects affecting historic sidewalk markers downtown. As mitigation, ODOT offered to complete a full Determination of Eligibility study for the downtown area. The 82-page document researches whether downtown Newberg could be eligible for state and federal historic district designation, covering 29 buildings in the proposed district boundary. The state has indicated the district is "potentially eligible" for designation.

The next phase will involve community outreach to downtown property owners to discuss the pros and cons of historic designation before pursuing any formal designation process. City Recorder Thomas emphasized that designation will not proceed without community input and support.

ODOT is also evaluating several individual properties for potential historic designation, including several properties on College and Main streets.

Items from Commissioners

Resource Inventory Project Updates

City Recorder Rachel Thomas provided an update on the ongoing historic resource inventory project. Commissioners have been assigned sections of properties to verify current conditions and note any changes from the existing inventory. Commissioners Deb and Karen Tozer have completed their sections. Phoenix expressed interest in participating and will be assigned sections upon her return from a trip. The project aims to create a modern database for historic property information, though staff capacity limitations have delayed this goal.

Commissioners discussed the potential for creating a historic display in the breezeway near the former music shop location. The space is owned by Francis Enterprises (Brian Francis) and currently managed by Arc Pet Rescue. The breezeway historically contained displays and could serve as a public education space for local history, potentially funded through CLG grants.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2026 at 6 PM.

Attested by:

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Chair Bob Woodruff

A digital signature of Rachel Thomas, appearing as a stylized blue line.

City Recorder Rachel Thomas City Recorder

2026-0303 Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-03-10

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