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**City of Newberg  
Historical Preservation Commission Planning Session  
June 17, 2025**

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Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Bob Woodruff, Debbra Buerkle, Britta Mansfield, Brian  
Engstrom, Karen Tozer

Commissioners Absent: Charles Watson, Robyn Wheatley (ex-officio)

Staff Present:

Rachel Thomas

**ODOT Updates**

Rachel Thomas gave a report on a recent meeting with ODOT. ODOT will be beginning work on ADA ramps in the city of Newberg, and as part of the work, will need to conduct historical remediation work. They will conduct determinations of eligibility research for the city for a historic downtown and several buildings along Hancock and Main Street. In addition, they asked for feedback on several questions including: treatment of historic sidewalk features affected by the work, curb colors to be used for safety curbs in the downtown, and treatment of any railroad rails found during the work.

Deliberations occurred and the following was discussed:

Sidewalk features- the commission agreed that the preference for handling historic sidewalk features would be a mixed solution with the following priorities. 1. Leave in place. 2. Move to an adjacent location. 3. Reproduce if option 1 or 2 is not feasible. 4. Reproduce any damaged features. In addition, they asked that any removed pieces that cannot be reused be given to the city for use in other projects for historic interpretation.

Curb color- While a color other than safety yellow is appealing, the commission believes it may cause more confusion than benefit to change to a different color. In addition, a different color scheme should be part of a larger vision for a historic downtown and would be premature at this time. They desire to think long term with priorities.

Railroad rails- The commission agreed to the following priorities for railroad pieces encountered during the work. 1. Remove and give pieces to city for use in historic interpretation. 2. Preserve in place is removal is not feasible.

### **Work Plan**

Chair Woodruff shared that at a recent council meeting the commission work plan was heartily approved.

### **Resource Inventory Project**

A detailed plan and template is needed for the resource inventory project as there is confusion on how to conduct the work. Commissioners Mansfield and Buerkle are to meet with staff to create an example and training for the commission before the next meeting.

### **Commission Business**

Commissioner Mansfield invited the commission to keep an eye out for an invitation to a history happy hour at the newly opened Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Coalition building in the historic West Linn City Hall. In addition, she asked that the commission keep in mind the future possibility of preparing a community curated exhibit for the space on the history of Newberg .

Commissioner Mansfield also shared that the Newberg Area Historical Society has been limping along for the past couple of years but they are beginning to explore disbanding or merging with the Yamhill County Historical Society as volunteers have waned post-pandemic.


Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

*Rachel Thomas*

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Rachel Thomas, City Recorder

**ATTEST:**

  
Bob Woodruff (Jun 23, 2025 06:18 PDT)

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Bob Woodruff, Chair






# 2025-0617 Historical Preservation Commission Minutes

Final Audit Report

2025-06-23

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