
Agenda

**May 16, 2024
4:45 PM**

Committee Members:

Judy Juntunen Jill Van Buren (by phone) Peter Barnhisel Scott McClure

Staff Members:

Paul Wallsinger, Benton County Facilities Manager
Levon Atwood, Benton County Facilities Technician, Courthouse Maintenance
Amelia Miller, Facilities Administrative Specialist (Recorder)

I. Introduction & Visitor Comments:

- **Introductions:**
- **Visitor Comments:**

II. Agenda Review:

III. Administration:

IV. Old Business:

V. New Business:

Meeting adjournment

Next Meeting: August 15, 2024

Meeting Minutes

**May 16, 2024
4:45 PM**

Committee Members:

Judy Juntunen Peter Barnhisel Scott McClure

Staff Members:

Paul Wallsinger, Benton County Facilities Manager
Levon Atwood, Benton County Facilities Technician, Courthouse Maintenance
Amelia Miller, Facilities Administrative Specialist (Recorder)

Absent:

Jill Van Buren

- I. **Introduction & Visitor Comments:** Meeting commenced at 4:45pm
 - **Introductions:** There were no new introductions required.
 - **Visitor Comments:** There were no visitor comments.
- II. **Agenda Review:** All agenda items were correct.
- III. **Administration:** The previous minutes were correct.
- IV. **Old Business:** The group talked about the current earthquake safety of the Courthouse. Judy recalled the last time there was a study to see if the Courthouse could handle an earthquake. She noted that updating the Courthouse to meet the seismic standards back then was very costly. Paul agreed, saying that the cost to make the Courthouse safe for earthquakes would be much higher than the last estimate, possibly reaching several million dollars. This high cost could create problems for any future improvements to the building, as other renovations might require seismic upgrades.
- V. **New Business:**
 - **Board of Commissioners Meeting & New Members:** Judy and Paul talked with the committee about meeting the new member applicants this coming Monday. The next day, they will go to the Benton County Board of Commissioners meeting to update the Board on the committee's status. After their presentation, the Courthouse Use Committee and the Courthouse Historic Preservation Committee will also share their updates. Judy noted that there are some strong applicants from the community, including residents who shared their goals and what they hope to achieve with the committee. She also mentioned that several applicants have previously worked with the Courthouse in various roles. Paul agreed that having invested and experienced local community members on

the committee would be beneficial. He believes the committee should help maintain the Courthouse's historic character. Judy also thought that new members could introduce innovative ideas.

- **Accomplishments of the Committee for BOC meeting presentation:** Judy talked about some topics they will cover in the meeting regarding the committee's status. One example was when the committee investigated replacing the roof tiles of the building. Judy mentioned that she even asked a tile craftsman to create a sample of the roof tiles, but the project did not move forward. Paul informed the group that Benton County Facilities requested bids to replace the entire roof earlier this year. However, both bids received were too high and went over the budget set for the project. The County decided to cancel the project until the building is unoccupied to reduce costs, as the safety of the occupants during the work was a major concern affecting the bid prices.
- The committee has worked on creating detailed lists of historical furniture and decorations in the Courthouse over the years. Paul suggested that it might be helpful for the committee to conduct another inventory to refresh the current records, especially with the new Courthouse complex set to open in a few years. This could help ensure that the historic items stay in the building during the move of the Courthouse departments. Judy asked what would happen to the historic furniture once regular operations stop. Paul responded that he thought the Courthouse Reuse committee would provide a good recommendation for the overall use of the Courthouse, which would likely include the historic items. Judy also asked about the paintings listed in the inventories and whether any were stored in the Courthouse besides those on display. Levon mentioned he was aware of a few, but most were already accounted for.
- The group talked about how the committee helped fix the front steps and planters at the Courthouse. Judy remembered that the stairs were first covered with plywood, which was later removed, and the planters were added based on the committee's suggestion.
- The committee has also helped by refinishing the front doors and suggesting ways to store documents in the Courthouse basement. They assisted in transferring important documents to local and state agencies and recommended moved the law library from the attic of the Courthouse to the Humphrey-Hoyer building.
- **New Courthouse tours organizer:** Judy then discussed with the group that Jill would be inquiring with someone else about taking over Courthouse tours in her place.

Meeting adjourned at: 5:25 PM

Next Meeting: August 15, 2024