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## **Agenda**

**March 13, 2025  
4:45 PM**

### **Committee Members:**

Judy Juntunen      Jill Van Buren      Scott McClure  
Adrienne Fritze      Carol Chin      Cornelia Levy-Bencheton      David Dodson      Roz Keeney

### **Staff Members:**

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

#### **I. Introduction & Visitor Comments**

#### **II. Agenda Review**

#### **III. Benton County Facilities Staff Updates**

#### **IV. Administration:**

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

#### **V. Old Business:**

- Discuss the goals of the committee
- Further review of Benton County Courthouse Reuse Committee recommendation report to Benton County Board of Commissioners

#### **VI. New Business**

#### **VII. Other Business & Questions**

Meeting Adjournment

Next Meeting Scheduled For: April 2025

## **Agenda**

**March 13, 2025  
4:45 PM**

### **Committee Members:**

Judy Juntunen      Adrienne Fritze      Cornelia Levy-Bencheton  
David Dodson      Roz Keeney      Carol Chin

### **Staff Members:**

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

### **Absent:**

Jill Van Buren      Scott McClure

- I. **Introduction & Visitor Comments:** Meeting commenced at 4:52 PM. The group proceeded with introductions amongst the group. There were no visitors.
- II. **Agenda Review:** All agenda items were correct.
- III. **Benton County Facilities Staff Updates:** Paul provided updates on recent work at the courthouse. The District Attorney's office is to undergo minor renovations including painting and electrical outlet upgrades. A utility failure in the basement was addressed, and Levon is currently soliciting bids for necessary chiller repairs. Additionally, LED lighting has been installed in the Centennial Room as part of a county-wide energy efficiency grant, which is expected to result in approximately 15% savings on utility costs. Adrienne thanked Paul for her recent tour of the courthouse and shared that she found it enlightening, especially the mix of modern updates in the DA's office and the preserved features of the bell tower. The group discussed the long-standing collection of photos and videos maintained by the CPC and HRC, reinforcing the courthouse's significance to Benton County's history.

#### IV. Administration:

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the January 2025 meeting were approved following a motion by Roz and a second by David.

#### V. Old Business:

- **Committee Member Vacancy:** The committee acknowledged the passing of Pete Barnhisel and discussed the vacancy left by his departure. Members noted the importance of his legal expertise on the committee and expressed interest in recruiting another attorney. Paul stated that the Board of Commissioners is actively working to fill the position and will share updates on the timeline so members can help identify potential candidates.
- **Available Funds:** At the request of the group, Amelia read aloud the committee's mission statement. Adrienne inquired about the Louisa D. DuBoasch fund mentioned within it, and Paul said he would follow up with the finance department regarding the remaining balance. The group agreed it may be worth exploring ways to generate revenue to replenish the fund in the future.
- **Historic Courthouse Future and New Courthouse:** Discussion turned to the upcoming transition to the new courthouse, expected to open in Spring 2027. Members considered the status of historic furniture and fixtures in the current courthouse and what should be preserved, moved, or repurposed. Adrienne offered to contact the Corvallis Museum about housing or showcasing items of historical significance. Carol suggested that historic photographs, such as portraits of former judges, be incorporated into the new courthouse setting. Paul clarified that while the CPC's main role is to determine the future of the existing courthouse and its contents, the committee may recommend the transfer of some historic items to the new facility.
- **Historic Resource Commission Reuse Report:** The committee reviewed the status of the Benton County Courthouse Reuse Report. Judy noted that the Board of Commissioners has not provided feedback or adopted the report. David and Adrienne expressed interest in advocating for its review and suggested reaching out to Gabe Shepherd, the newest elected Benton County Commissioner, the Historic Resources Commission liaison, for guidance. David volunteered to review the report and follow up with the BOC, with plans to summarize findings at a future meeting.
- **Cont.:** Further conversation addressed the reuse possibilities and challenges for the current courthouse, including infrastructure concerns such as the outdated elevator. Members also touched on potential uses for the adjacent jail if a new facility is built. Adrienne expressed a desire to compile a formal written history of the courthouse, with assistance from Judy and possibly in partnership with the Corvallis Museum. Roz introduced the idea of creating a "history trunk" filled with artifacts, documents, and educational materials for schools and public programs. The committee agreed this could be a valuable outreach tool. Adrienne encouraged members to reach out to community members who may have connections or perspectives relevant to the courthouse's legacy.
- **New Business:** David committed to continuing a review of the reuse report, while Adrienne and Judy will continue working on the courthouse history and the trunk project. Roz will speak with community members who may be interested in contributing to these initiatives. Cornelia asked if someone involved with the new courthouse project could attend a future CPC meeting to discuss how historic elements might be incorporated. Paul offered to speak with Gary Stockhoff, the project manager, and David will reach out to OTAK, the consulting firm on the project.

## **VI. Other Business & Questions**

- Adrienne shared that the HRC is developing a new historic driving tour booklet for Benton County, with route planning underway. She also suggested inviting Jesse Ott, the new director of NAPE (who will inherit the courthouse), to an upcoming meeting. Paul agreed to extend the invitation. Roz reported that a local group, with ODOT's support, is creating a historical tour of Corvallis, which is expected to include the courthouse.
- In recognition of Historic Preservation Month, Adrienne proposed coordinating with the HRC to align efforts, especially under new leadership within the Community Development Department. Judy raised a question regarding the courthouse exterior, noting that it is referenced in the mission statement and asking whether it falls under county park management. The meeting concluded with members exchanging contact information to coordinate on upcoming projects.

Meeting Adjournment at 6:05 PM

Next Meeting Scheduled For: April 2025