

**CITY OF OREGON CITY
HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 27, 2012**

**City Hall – Commission Chambers
625 Center Street, Oregon City**

Board Members Present:

Cindy Towle
Robert Siewert
Derek Metson
Vicki Yates

Staff Present:

Christina Robertson-Gardiner, Associate Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Metson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Paul Edgar, resident of Oregon City, discussed a letter from the Canemah Neighborhood Association regarding the importance of the Native American history at Canemah Cemetery Road and cemetery itself. Metro wanted to remove some trees around Cemetery Road and he was concerned it would damage the road and cemetery. He thought they should be designated a historic landmark. The Neighborhood Association was requesting to begin that process.

David Hedges and Cap Hedges were descendants of the original Hedges who founded Canemah. They discussed the archeological missteps of Metro who did a tree clearing in 2007 and the developer in 1987 who wanted to put 136 houses in this location. There had been looting of archeological artifacts when Metro cleared the area. At the May 9, 1997 City Commission meeting there was testimony from tribal members and the Cascade Geographic Society saying the road had been used for thousands of years. They requested being placed on the next HRB agenda to make a formal presentation on these historical facts and resources and to create a historic landmark of the road and cemetery.

Christina Robertson-Gardiner, Associate Planner, said there was no current HRB authority over the cemetery road. Metro had a private agreement with the cemetery association to use the road. Brian Vonn, Metro project manager, would be coming next month to speak about this issue. The cemetery association owned the road and they would have to agree to make it a local landmark. The HRB could bring this issue forward to the City Commission for further action or send a letter to Metro to make sure they were following ORS 358 requirements.

This issue would be discussed at the April HRB meeting.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Reformatting Design Guidelines for Alterations to Historic Buildings

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner had drafted the two adopted design guidelines for exterior alteration and additions into one document and asked for feedback.

There was discussion regarding rewording the landscaping requirements. There was further discussion regarding the flexibility of the guidelines.

Some minor changes would be made to the document and it would be brought back for adoption.

b. May Preservation Month Activities

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner said there were three nominations for the Preservation Award and she would forward the ballot to the HRB. She suggested a co-sponsored project with the Clackamas County Historical Society and Museum of the Oregon Territory for a photo contest of historic hidden gems in the community to coincide with the Ralph Eddy exhibit.

The HRB agreed to the project. Ms. Towle volunteered to help.

c. Ermatinger House Update

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner explained the consultants completed a draft condition analysis which would be used to prepare the proposed rehabilitation plans for the house. The City would find out in May if they would receive a Community Development Block Grant. She would be attending the Historic Preservation League of Oregon Year 2 endangered buildings luncheon. The Heritage Conference was scheduled for April 26-28?? and asked if any HRB members wanted to attend the dinner.

d. 2012-2013 HRB Work Plan

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner said there was nothing new to discuss on the work plan.

Howard Post, resident in Canemah, discussed the Captain Cochran?? House whose roof had collapsed and he wanted something done before it totally fell apart.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner said it was already in demolition by neglect code enforcement. There had been interest in purchasing the property. It might meet the qualifications for demolition if staff continued with the process.

Motion by Ms. Yates, second by Ms. Towle, to direct staff to move forward with the demolition by neglect process for the Captain Cochran house on Apperson and 99E. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

4. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Metson adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.