

## **LWV-Kitsap Bremerton/CK Unit Meeting Notes--Saturday, April 15, 2023**

Kitsap United Way Conference Room/Zoom

In Person: Maureen Cervinsky, Katie Pratt, Connie Marchant, John Cervinsky, Kathleen Cahall, Debi Barner, Candy Rankin

Via Zoom: Charlie Mackall, Debbie Klabo, Cat Freudenberg, Pat Troxell, Janice McLemore, Suzanne Schreiner

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**LWV-Kitsap Annual Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 9:30am-2:00pm (two separate meetings).**

**In-person Location for both: "The Summit Space" in the Vibe Coworks @ 19225 8th Ave. NE, #201, Poulsbo. Space limited to 50 participants: email Robin Muir if you plan to attend & let her know if you want to stay for lunch (\$25 catered by ChocMo) [sumuirhom@gmail.com](mailto:sumuirhom@gmail.com)**

**Check your 4/18 email from League of Women Voters of Kitsap re 2023 Annual Meeting for Zoom links & more details.**

### **Our Unit's Next Meeting (NOTE LOCATION & TIME CHANGE):**

**Saturday, May 20 @ 10:30AM**

**Sylvan Way KRL Branch** (Armed Forces Day parade in downtown Bremerton)

### **The Field of Historic Preservation:**

Katie Pratt, a relatively new member of LWV-K & one of our unit members, has jumped into important work for the League as a member of the Voter team. She is an architectural historian with her own consulting firm, Northwest Vernacular. [nwvhp.com](http://nwvhp.com) Katie has a BA in History from Whitworth University & received an MS in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon in 2009. The field is wide-ranging and she works on a variety of projects for clients including business owners & developers, state & county agencies, municipalities and non-profits. She has worked in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

She chose to focus today on the aspects of her work that relate to regulatory action, policy and legislation. Examples from our recent unit meetings--**Planning:** The County Comprehensive Plan update is required to address historic resources; **Housing:** Historic preservation professionals can work with a range of officials and nonprofits that are trying to find solutions for the housing crisis; **Local News:** Katie prepared a historic context statement of the State Capitol Press Corps as part of mitigation work in response to demolition of the former press houses at the State Capitol campus.

Katie's Professional Qualifications allow her to work on historic preservation projects with federal review. Often state & local agencies adopt those federal requirements, as well.

### **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966:**

Prior to the passage of the NHPA, interstate highway construction across the country having decimated many neighborhoods, Congress recognized the possible deleterious effects of federal projects on communities. The act importantly codified national standards. If it is deemed that a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place. Examples: a permit to erect a cell phone tower, federal transportation dollars to improve highways, Army

Corps of Engineer permits. Section 106 gives interested parties & the public an important opportunity to lend their voice on these matters before a final decision is made.

Katie would be called in to work on a Section 106 project if within that project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) there are built environment resources that are at least 50 years of age or older. She would conduct a reconnaissance level survey to identify if the property is potentially "historic" (in this instance, already listed with the National Register of Historic Places or eligible to be listed). Eligibility is determined through a multifaceted process, including physical integrity & the ability to convey its significance. Seven aspects of integrity must be considered and their value weighed for each specific property: design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and association. If a property is determined to be historic, Katie must also evaluate if the project will adversely impact that property. If not, then Section 106 is fulfilled. If so, then mitigation has to be considered to minimize or eliminate the adverse effect. That could mean changing a project, moving a property, or maybe documenting a property scheduled to be demolished so the underlying story will not be forgotten & then creating options to offset that loss, possibly identifying and protecting other similar or nearby historic properties.

In addition to the Section 106 process, NHPA established State Historic Preservation Offices for each state-- Washington's is called the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP). Also established were Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), which enable tribal nations to protect & identify historic places in ways that conform to tribal values.

### **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA):**

Despite the word "Environmental" in the name, SEPA is not restricted to the natural environment; the built environment is also included. The SEPA process identifies & analyzes environmental impacts associated with governmental decisions and allows for public input. The Act establishes that it is the continuing responsibility of the state to preserve historic, cultural & natural aspects of our national heritage.

A SEPA environmental review may begin when:

- Someone submits an application to an agency for a license or permit for an apartment building
- An agency is considering construction of a public project, such as a new school, highway or water pipeline
- An agency is developing a regulation, policy or plan, such as a county or city comprehensive plan, a critical area ordinance, or a state water quality regulation

The applicant will usually be asked to fill out an "environmental checklist", which asks questions about the proposal & its potential impacts on a variety of subjects. Question #13 on the checklist relates to archaeological, historical & cultural resources. As a consultant, Katie would be hired to help an applicant complete the checklist's Question #13, a four-part query: a) Are there any buildings, structures or sites located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? b) Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? c) Describe the methods used to assess potential impacts to cultural & historic resources on or near the project site d) List proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources.

If the lead agency has enough information to determine that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, the agency will issue a determination of non-significance (DNS). If the information indicates otherwise, the lead agency will require the preparation of an environmental impact

statement (EIS); Katie would then be hired to help address the impacts to historic resources and the alternatives identified, as well as to help work through mitigation options. She is often part of a large team made up of many subcontractors, including biologists, architects, engineers, building contractors, public interest groups, environmental specialists, to name a few--it can be a very interdisciplinary process.

### **Executive Order (EO) 21-02:**

This EO, signed by Gov. Jay Inslee in 2021, assures that cultural resources, archaeological sites, historic structures & tribal sacred places are fully considered in any state-funded construction project or acquisition & that impacts to these cultural resources must be considered. Agencies are required to notify DAHP, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) and concerned tribes and afford them an opportunity to review & provide comments about potential project impacts. The underlying goal behind the EO is to ensure that the State is proactive in protecting our rich history for future generations & to use taxpayer money wisely by avoiding unnecessary damage & loss of significant sites, structures & buildings. As a consultant, Katie's work would be to help clients recognize when they have a project that will trigger EO 21-02 consultation & help them avoid significant impacts.

This was a revised EO that superseded EO 05-05 signed by Gov. Chris Gregoire in 2005, after WSDOT ended construction in 2004 of a massive graving dock at Ediz Hook in Port Angeles. Similar to a dry dock, the graving yard was where replacement pontoons & concrete anchors for the Hood Canal Bridge were to be constructed & refurbished. When it became apparent that the project was located on the site of an important Klallam village containing over 350 intact remains, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe asked the state to move the project. The important archaeological discovery cost the State an additional 85 million dollars.

### **Certified Local Government (CLG) Status:**

When the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) certifies that a county or municipality in Washington State has established its own historic preservation commission & a program meeting federal & state standards, that local government can apply for certification as a CLG. That status enables the local government to apply for pass-through grants from the federal level through the state down to the local level, and gives direct access to SHPO staff for technical assistance and training. CLGs also offer Special Tax Valuation to properties listed on their local historic register & the National Register of Historic Places--expenses for maintenance, for example, can be deducted from property taxes for a period of 10 years. Washington State has over 60 CLGs--Bainbridge Island is the only one in Kitsap County. When asked what would discourage a city from wanting to become a CLG, Katie said misunderstandings about infringement on property rights is sometimes an issue--some ordinances require owner consent for an area to be nominated for local historic designation, some allow anyone to nominate an area.

Two projects that Northwest Vernacular consulted on where CLG funding was used:

--The Prairie Line Trail project in downtown Tacoma converted one mile of the Northern Pacific Railroad's original western terminus into a public space with a multiuser trail, historic/cultural interpretation, public art & greenery. Katie was the lead author on the Interpretative Plan & the Historic & Cultural Assessment Report, working directly with artists & the website team.

--The Washington Building in downtown Tacoma, built in 1925, was reimagined as an 18-story, 156-unit multifamily development & is now called The Astor.

**Katie sees historic preservation projects like these as relating to many public policy areas: Planning, Economic Development, Community Vitality, Heritage Tourism, Sustainability.**

There is always a push and pull between zoning/planning/gentrification/private financial investment on one hand and preserving/valuing/celebrating/protecting on the other. It is important for local governments, agencies, nonprofits, and citizens to think proactively rather than needing to "put out fires" when a building or neighborhood comes under threat.

Tacoma has done an outstanding job of taking historic preservation into account when considering projects. Tacoma, along with Seattle & Spokane, all have dedicated historic preservation commission staff who do their own environmental reviews. The UW-Tacoma area has both National and Local Historic designations. As well, Tacoma is looking to designate a rare buffer conservation district, to require a less stringent historical review. Katie has done some work with Port Gamble Historic District, also on the National Register.

The Washington State 2023 legislature just passed a bill that would allow duplexes or fourplexes in most neighborhoods in most cities throughout the state, regardless of local zoning rules that have limited much land to single-family homes only. This would also allow for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which Katie says are not in opposition to historic preservation. The city of Bremerton has a range of multifamily options & has championed ADUs with its zoning.

Bremerton's downtown U.S. Post Office is on the National Register of Historic Places, as is Navy Yard Puget Sound (PSNS). PSNS retains a full-time cultural preservation staff. The Downtown Bremerton Association seeks to preserve the history & uniqueness of its downtown core. Katie believes Bremerton is "on the cusp" & she says a vibrant downtown brings vitality to the entire surrounding community. Historic preservation **is** economic development--it certainly has a cost, but more of that money goes to labor than to materials, so the dollars stay local. Heritage tourists spend more dollars and stay longer at their destination than other types of tourists.

Kathleen recently learned that industrial sites, such as the Hanford decommissioned nuclear production site, can also be designated as historic. The Hanford Site is part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (with sites in NM & TN, as well) & encompasses historic facilities & educational centers.

Katie talked about seeing a significant change in her 14 years of work in this field, seeing the participants in historic preservation projects incrementally becoming more diverse. To identify and document a broader range of historic properties, not just those in white, Eurocentric areas, requires building relationships, trust & community involvement. The National Park Service offers grants for underrepresented communities to help plan & implement historic preservation projects.

### **Pertinent & Interesting Websites:**

<https://preservewa.org> Nonprofit group Washington Trust for Historic Preservation site--information about Main Street program, consultants & preservation trades directory, grant sources

<https://docomomo-us.org> International organization for the DOcumentation & COnservation of buildings & sites of the MOdern MOvement

Thank you so much, Katie, for sharing with us about your important work in the field of historic preservation. We all learned so much and had lots of questions. You say it draws people, place, and history together, encouraging the protection and celebration of the tangible aspects of history. You love your work--and it shows!

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### **Debrief March 21 LWV-K Planning Meeting:**

--How do we become better informed about the Legislature?

Maureen suggested that we set up a field trip as a unit toward the beginning of the next session to go watch the legislature at work, then discuss how to bring what we've learned into our meetings. Maybe some of us would be interested in following one area of legislation & reporting on it at our meetings. Connie said she often has the TVW channel on & can listen to their coverage of the legislature's committee hearings & floor debates.

--How do we make unstructured time to visit/socialize/address member concerns & interests?

Maybe we could get together once/month outside the unit meeting, cocktail hour time, find a place that's quiet. From that could possibly come ideas on how we want to proceed, how to better support our members, etc.

### **Know Your County Project:**

Part 1 has been completed! It is up on the [lwg-kitsap.org](http://lwg-kitsap.org) webpage under Advocacy in a pdf format.

Maureen would like to know if it works to read the information on Chromebook or Acer laptops, so it could be used in the schools as a resource tool.

She will send it out to each of the county departments covered in the digital pamphlet--officials in each of those departments have been very gracious in reviewing their content.

The KYC committee, who have worked hard on this project, plan a celebratory/planning gathering on Tuesday, May 2 @ 5:30pm at Pat's residence, The Pearl on Oyster Bay.

Now to Part 2: Maureen will send to Katie the extensive historical timeline that Pat has put together for Katie's input on how to organize/prioritize the information. Let Maureen or Raejean know if you are interested in researching or writing articles for this next phase.

### **Voter Registration in the Schools:**

Members from our unit have scheduled times at their respective schools to do in-person voter registration--first time since early 2020!

Connie & Debi will be at Bremerton High School; at CKHS Debi will be joined by Emily Neff, a senior at the school; Janice & Candy will be at Barker Creek Alternative School; & Candy, Janice & Maureen will go to Olympic High School.

### **Our Summer Book Discussion:**

Kathleen has been reading *Why We're Polarized* by Ezra Klein & thinks it will be a good choice for us to read & discuss. She added that Ballast Book Company on Pacific Ave. in downtown Bremerton will give us a 10% discount if we say that we are with the League of Women Voters book group. Our discussion dates

will be **Wednesday, Aug. 22 & Wednesday, Aug. 29, Noon to 2pm.** Pat has agreed to host us again at her residence at The Pearl on Oyster Bay.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee:**

All members will receive this report in the mail prior to the annual meeting as part of the packet of materials we will be asked to review prior to participating in the business meeting portion.

For now, those persons who will be members of the Board or Nominating Committee for next year have already received the slate. For 2023-2024, our unit is well represented: Robin will be President; Rajean will be a new Board Director; Victoria & Pat will continue as Board Directors & Debi will continue as Secretary. Maureen & Kathleen C. will both serve on next year's Nominating Committee. We are very fortunate to have fellow members with many strengths and skills to bring to our League's leadership, as well as the willingness to serve. Thank you to one and all.

### **2023 LWVWA Convention:**

Cat said our local League would like to have more delegates. The cost will be reimbursed and hotel rooms can be shared. The Convention runs from Thursday, May 4 to Sunday, May 7, at the Pasco Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Pasco, WA. Registration fee is \$310. Contact Cat Freudenberg to sign up and get more information: [scalpaca@msn.com](mailto:scalpaca@msn.com)

Recorded by Candy Rankin