



Meeting Minutes

Heritage Commission

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501
Contact: Michelle Sadlier
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Wednesday, January 28, 2015

6:30 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Davies called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Chair Holly Davies, Vice Chair Dwayne Harkness, Commissioner Mary Coacher, Commissioner Benjamin Helle, Commissioner Luke Howard, Commissioner Patricia McLain, Commissioner Garner Miller, and Commissioner Mark Rentfrow

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Rachel Newmann, and Commissioner Nicholas Vann

1.B OTHERS PRESENT

Community Planning & Development Associate Planner Michelle Sadlier (Historic Preservation Officer)

Planning Commissioner Judy Bardin

Homeowner Applicant Lauren Danner

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [15-0102](#) Approval of December 3, 2014 Olympia Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sadlier announced the new Council liaison to the Heritage Commission is Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones. She discussed four upcoming open Heritage Commission positions and urged Commissioners whose terms will expire to reapply.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A [15-0107](#) Olympia Heritage Commission (OHC) Evaluation of National Register Nomination of the Trueman & Virginia Schmidt House

Ms. Sadlier presented the criteria for evaluation by the National Register of Historic Places in preparation for discussion regarding the nomination form review by the OHC for the Trueman & Virginia Schmidt House at 2932 Maringo Road SE.

Discussion:

- Importance of architect G. Stacey Bennett's contribution to Olympia architecture.

Ms. Danner, the owner of the Trueman & Virginia Schmidt House, discussed the history of the house, pointing to documents and drawings included with the evaluation, and shared detailed information about interior, exterior, and landscaping features of the home.

Commissioner Miller moved, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, to recommend the property be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The motion passed unanimously.

6.B [15-0109](#) Preparation for OHC Retreat: Review of Approved 2014 Work Program

Ms. Sadlier discussed the upcoming retreat. The two main topics for discussion are the proposed 2015 Work Plan and Olympia Downtown Historic District. Ms. Sadlier proposed a focus on district boundaries and distinctions between contributing and noncontributing properties in the historic district.

Discussion:

- The intention for new development to be compatible with the feeling and historic aspects of Downtown.
- Past problems when remediation was inconsistent with historic criteria.
- Misperceptions about appropriate design "fitting in" with historic elements.
- Community Renewal Area criteria setting.

Commissioners reviewed the approved 2014 Work Plan and determined which work items to carry forward and/or add to the proposed work plan for the coming year.

The discussion was completed.

6.C [15-0098](#) Approval of January 5, 2015 Olympia Heritage Commission Heritage Review Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

7. REPORTS

7.A Downtown Committee - None

7.B Heritage Review Committee - None**7.C Maintenance Committee - None****7.D Outreach Committee**

Commissioner Helle discussed ideas for a photo display on the second floor of City Hall. He mentioned that the wood used for the City Hall interior staircase is believed to come from the Safeway building which was demolished to build the new City Hall building.

7.E Policy & Ordinance Committee - None**7.F Staff**

Ms. Sadler announced a new office location for the Downtown Ambassadors (DA) at 4th and Adams in the Rex Building. She discussed DA plans for locating images in the display windows and the possibility for OHC participation. She also noted the OHC may be called on by the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation to review an application to revise the boundary for the Washington State Capitol Historic District in time for the March meeting.

8. OTHER TOPICS

Planning Commissioner Bardin gave a report on Planning Commission activities and upcoming informational briefings on Downtown issues. She discussed efforts of the Planning Commission to involve the Heritage Commission in the Downtown Strategy planning process.

Commissioner McLain gave a report on a meeting on density and infill she attended.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.