



City of Olympia

City Hall
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Meeting Minutes Heritage Commission

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

6:30 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Chair Holly Davies, Vice Chair Dwayne Harkness, Commissioner Luke Howard, Commissioner Garner Miller, Commissioner Deborah J Ross, Commissioner Nicholas Vann, Commissioner Patricia McLain, and Commissioner Benjamin Helle

Excused: 3 - Commissioner Mark Rentfrow, Commissioner Mary Coacher, and Commissioner Rachel Newmann

OTHERS PRESENT

Planning Commissioner Judy Bardin
Community Planning and Development Deputy Director Leonard Bauer
Associate Planner Stacey Ray
Associate Planner Michelle Sadlier

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 26, 2014 minutes were approved as amended.

3.A [14-0401](#) Approval of OHC Minutes for March 26, 2014 Meeting

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jay Elder of 1018 Olympia Avenue NE, a board member of the Bigelow Neighborhood Association, spoke about his concerns about historic Bigelow Neighborhood. He spoke in particular about the development of a building next to the Olympia Avenue Historic District. Mr. Elder stated that the height and design of the proposed building would have impacts on the historic district, including its protected views. He requested that the wider Bigelow Neighborhood be designated as a historic district and that tall buildings be restricted to 35 feet in height. Ms. Sadlier distributed a letter submitted by Mr. Elder to Heritage Commissioners.

Discussion:

Heritage Commissioners expressed support for the neighborhood submitting an application to pursue historic district status. The process of the application was discussed. Planning Commissioner Bardin discussed the history of the urban corridor designation in the Comprehensive Plan.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sadlier distributed some articles and spoke about public input regarding historic markers installed by the Olympia Downtown Association, which expressed concern that one marker may be making reference to violence against women. She also notified Commissioners of an upcoming mid-century resources workshop on June 14, 2014 in Everett. In light of upcoming Open Government training on June 4, 2014, Ms. Sadlier reminded the group to be conscious of potential conflict when individual Commissioners express personal views related to the Heritage Commission's or City's work to members of the public or other advisory groups which may be construed as representing the whole Commission's views.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS**6.A** [14-0402](#) 2014 Draft Comprehensive Plan Update & Introduction to Action Plan

Discussion only:

Mr. Bauer gave a status update on the Comprehensive Plan process. He discussed timelines and public input in the development and adoption process and some key issues, such as urban corridors and the proposed development of "nodes".

Commissioners discussed the importance of defining views with a public process and actions the City could take to spur the growth of neighborhood centers.

Ms. Ray presented on a new process being introduced with this Comprehensive Plan: the Action Plan. She discussed opportunities for the Heritage Commission's input.

The discussion was completed.

6.B [14-0403](#) Historic Preservation Award Selection

Commissioner McLain moved, seconded by Commissioner Ross to award sign painter and muralist Ira Coyne the 2014 Preservation Award.

Aye: 8 - Chair Davies, Vice Chair Harkness, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Vann, Commissioner McLain and Commissioner Helle

Excused: 3 - Commissioner Rentfrow, Commissioner Coacher and Commissioner Newmann

6.C [14-0404](#) Historic Preservation Month Event

Discussion only:

Commissioners Ross and Helle provided an update on the Historic Preservation Month event, which will be held May 10 & 11, 2014 at Percival Landing. The event is a temporary display of historical photographs celebrating Olympia's maritime heritage. Commissioner Helle will send out a call for volunteers for the information booth.

The discussion was completed.

7. REPORTS

7.A Downtown Committee

Commissioner McLain discussed the Committee's meeting with City staff on the proposed "Historic Downtown Olympia" highway signs.

7.B Heritage Review Committee

No updates.

7.C Maintenance Committee

No updates.

7.D Outreach Committee

No further updates.

7.E Policy & Ordinance Committee

Commissioner Ross reported on the reasons why past surveys of mid-century buildings had been recorded as "Information Only" (rather than "Inventory"). The Committee has been reviewing ordinance on Inventory properties to consider whether to recommend the removal of regulatory impacts of being on the Inventory and has determined a potential process for responding to proposed demolition of Inventory properties as long as the regulations are in place. Commissioner Ross discussed past public process on the Wildwood & Governor Stevens surveys. The Committee recommended the addition of most properties recorded as "Information Only" and all Wildwood/Governor Stevens properties which were identified to receive a letter following the survey to be placed on the Inventory.

Commissioner Ross moved, seconded by Commissioner Vann that with the exception of the IBM and Olympia Auto Freight Buildings, the buildings which are listed as "Information Only" in the TRPC database be listed on the Inventory, and that those Governor Stevens/Wildwood properties which were sent letters following the survey also be listed on the Inventory.

Aye: 8 - Chair Davies, Vice Chair Harkness, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Vann, Commissioner McLain and Commissioner Helle

Excused: 3 - Commissioner Rentfrow, Commissioner Coacher and Commissioner Newmann

7.F Survey & Inventory Committee

Updates relayed by the Policy & Ordinance Committee.

7.G Planning Commission Update

Chair Davies reported on the Planning Commission meeting about cell phone towers and AT&T's proposed changes to Olympia Municipal Code. She proposed the Heritage Commission comment on the proposal. The Commission agreed.

Planning Commissioner Bardin reported on two meetings, the April 21, 2014 Planning Commission meeting and April 14, 2014 joint meeting of the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations and Planning Commission.

7.H Staff Update

Ms. Sadlier summarized the heritage review she conducted for a straightforward building permit application (Permit # 14-1792) for improvements at 207 18th Ave SW. The City Council has approved the 2014 Heritage Commission Work Plan as revised. The grant the City will receive from the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for the mid-century residential survey will double from \$6,000 to \$12,000.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.