

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Chuck Denney, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: November 21, 2024
SUBJECT: 2025 Planning

1) Recommended Action:

Discussion item to develop a work plan for the Commission.

2) Background:

Staffing of the Historical Commission was transferred from the City's Planning Department to the Parks and Recreation Department in 2011. In 2013, budget cuts were made and staffing support from the Thurston Regional Planning Council as well as the City's Museum Coordinator position were eliminated. Without dedicated staffing, Commission support has primarily been managed by the Parks and Recreation Director.

Preserving and promoting Tumwater's history is a key aspect of Commission functions. The Tumwater Municipal Code language highlights Commission duties revolving around placing structures on the Historic Register and monitoring construction and changes through the Certificate of Appropriateness process. With limited resources, staff is not pursuing additions to the Historic Register but continues to monitor permitted projects within the City for adherence to the Certificate of Appropriateness guidelines.

There is a need to develop a list of programs, projects and/or research items that the Commission and staff can pursue in 2025. This agenda item is intended to initiate a brainstorming session that has been requested by several Commissioners to discuss potential work plan items for the coming year.

3) Alternatives:

Discussion Item – Suggestions to date include:

- The addition of historical signage to Tumwater streets
 - Creating databases for historical signage/markers/historical sites
 - Working with recreation staff on historical programs
 - Expanding research and programs with the Olympia Tumwater Foundation
 - Working with the Parks Commission and/or Arts Commission on joint projects
 - Update Master Plans and define the future of the Brewmaster's House and Crosby House
 - Other items as suggested by the Commission
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4) Attachments:

None