

APPROVED JULY 10TH

**CITY OF EDMONDS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
SUMMARY MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

June 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Tays called the meeting of the Edmonds Historic Preservation Commission to order at 5:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 121 – 5th Avenue North. He read the Commission's mission statement.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Gerry Tays, Chair
Tim Raetzloff, Vice Chair
Chris Deiner-Karr
Emily Scott
Larry Vogel
Steve Waite
Kristiana Johnson, City Council Member

STAFF PRESENT

Diane Cunningham, Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Sandra Allbery
Lora Petso, City Council Member

READING/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the May 8, 2014 minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

The agenda was accepted as presented.

REQUESTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no one in the audience.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Registration Committee

Chair Tays reported that he has exchanged emails with the owner of the Schumacher Building (318 Main Street) about the possibility of placing it on the Register. He intends to meet with her personally soon.

Education and Outreach Committee

Chair Tays indicated his plan to attend the Mid Century Resource Workshop in Everett on June 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Preservation Planning Committee

The Preservation Planning Committee did not have any items to report.

South Snohomish County Historical Society

Commissioner Vogel reported that the Scarecrow Festival will take place during the month of October, and the associated website has been done by the IB computer science class at Edmonds/Woodway High School. The Gala Heritage Days Banquet is scheduled for October 24th, and the Commissioners are invited to attend. Using funds from the raffle of the pedal

fire truck, the Society granted a scholarship to Snohomish County Fire District 1 to help fund the 9/11 Memorial. There will be a similar raffle this year.

The Commissioners commended the Society for the recent library renovation, but they expressed concern about the idea of relocating the main entrance.

The Commission discussed the article that was printed in the most recent edition of the Society's newsletter requesting that people submit historic photographs. It was clarified that the Commission was not interested in establishing its own collection of photographs, and the historical society would remain the repository for the historic photographs that are collected.

Commissioner Vogel advised that he is the Commission's liaison and participates on the society's board as an ex-officio member.

OTHER REPORTS

There were no other reports.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on New Application for Historic Register (Tuson Residents located at 232 Sunset Avenue North)

The Commission acknowledged the application and provided some general comments regarding the home. They directed staff to prepare a report for the Commission's continued discussion on July 10th.

Discussion of Other Potential Properties for the Register

Commissioner Waite reported that he was unable to find enough information on Yost Dam to support nominating the property for the Register. Commissioner Deiner-Karr agreed to search Snohomish County records for additional information.

Commissioner Raetzloff reported that he has been unable to make contact with the owner of the North Church to discuss its nomination to the Register.

Chair Tays announced that he would present an application for the Bigelow House at the Commission's July 10th meeting. He briefly shared information he has learned about the property and its previous owners. Commissioner Deiner-Karr agreed to share the information she has found, as well.

The Commission discussed the status of the property at the corner of 9th Avenue and Casper Street, which is currently owned by the Edmonds Methodist Church. It was noted that the existing home is a potential candidate for the Register. The property has been considered for potential subdivision, but no formal application has been submitted. The Commission discussed the concept of using development incentives to encourage property owners to maintain historic structures, but they recognized these opportunities are not currently available in the City. They agreed to talk about the concept further with staff, recognizing that implementation would require a lengthy process.

Discussion on Virtual Tour of the New Historic Plaques in Downtown Edmonds

Council Member Johnson reported that all of the brass puppet theater style plaques on 4th Avenue will be installed by the end of the month, and members of the public are invited to attend an official ceremony and actual tour at the Art Walk on July 17th (third Thursday). A virtual tour will also be made available to the public. The Commission agreed they wanted to view the virtual tour at their next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Plaque Placement Location Policy

Commissioner Waite reported that he met with Commissioners Vogel and Scott to talk about a plaque location policy. In addition to making the plaques more visible, they also discussed the need to provide more information about historic properties and the Historic Preservation Commission, in general. They presented a conceptual idea where the same bronze plaque would be placed on future historic structures. In addition, a post would be placed at each site with an additional

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plaque identifying the name of the property and the year it was built, as well as box containing a pamphlet with specific information about the property.

The Commissioners expressed general support for the conceptual idea, but they voiced concern about costs, maintenance and keeping the information boxes full. They agreed to pursue the concept further and provided comments and suggestions for addressing the concerns. Chair Tays agreed to discuss funding opportunities with representatives from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

CHAIR TAYS MOVED THAT COMMISSIONERS WAITE, VOGEL AND SCOTT REFINE THE PLAQUE PROGRAM FURTHER FOR THE COMMISSION'S CONTINUED DISCUSSION. COMMISSIONER DEINER-KARR SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items on the agenda.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Tays did not provide comments during this portion of the meeting.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Cunningham reminded the Commissioners of the Mid Century Resource Workshop in Everett on June 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Cunningham reported that Mr. Chave presented the Commission's grant application to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Council Member Johnson advised that, at their retreat in March, the City Council identified citywide priorities for 2014. One was to pursue historic preservation for Downtown Edmonds. She recalled that creating a historic district would require the support of at least 40% of the property owners. She suggested the Commission should focus their attention on this effort. A potential partner is the Business Improvement District, which is concerned about improving the overall quality of the downtown area. The remainder of the Commission concurred.

The Commission agreed to review the design standards for the BD1, BD2, BD3 and BD4 zones at their September meeting. They specifically asked staff to explain the changes that were recently adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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