

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Historic Preservation Commission

Date: 03/11/2024

Observer Reporting: Aly Welch

Length of Meeting: 90 minutes

Board Members Present: Anita Hornback, Matthew Root, Phil Gruen, Jennifer Hamilton, Allison Munch-Rotolo

Board Members Absent: Ned Warnick, John Anderson

Others Present (e.g., staff, other agency representatives, media, public): Roger Crawford (LWV Observer Corps Chair), Jason Radtke (Assistant Planner), RJ Lott (Community Development Director)

Business Pertaining to League Positions or Topics of Interest:

1) Issues discussed that relate to League priorities or positions.

- Supporting public input for land development (building demolition forms) - City and Regional Planning Position
- Ensuring public comment for Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) this spring/summer - City and Regional Planning Position
- Support annual review by the City Council of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) - City and Regional Planning Position.

2) Issues/topics that you want the League to know about, for community awareness and the business of your agency.

- The HPC is focusing on adopting/creating a Demolition Form to ensure building owners are not demolishing buildings that are historic, even if they did not previously know that the building was historic. This is based on research from communities around Washington and the success of the Walla Walla demolition form.
- HPC is interested in improving the current building/demolition process because of the lack of knowledge on building history in Pullman
- City Grants Administrator did not see the previous Grant Application for HPC
- Public comment period for Capital Improvements Project (CIP) - not sure of where public comment is located along the timeline
- Commission is aware of Best Practices in which commission would notify owners of historic buildings on an annual basis of their property owner responsibilities

3) Links to further information on an issue, if available.

- <https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/Public>
- Washington Trust Charitable Organization: <https://www.washtrust.com/about/community-support/charitable-giving>

Your additional comments/opinions:

- Many buildings on demolition permit list do not have a confirmed date of original development or construction
- Lots of suggestions from RJ to communicate with Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Door replacement on an historic property at 600 NE Oak was denied and suggested adding a potential deadline for certificates of alteration. Someone will verify if there is already a law in City Code about deadlines for building applications prior to the April meeting
- New Staff Liaison was not present to introduce themselves: Ariel Medeiros

Public Meetings of interest to League: *Were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with?*

- Next month's Historic Preservation Commission meeting: April 8, 2024

Process & Protocol: *Observations about participants and procedures during the meeting. e.g., Did the members appear to have done their "homework"? Were members courteous to each other and the public? Was access to materials for agenda items available to you?*

- A new chair was nominated at the beginning of the meeting due to the absence of the chair and vice chair
- There was no opportunity for public comment at this meeting.

Attached Materials or Links: *Please attach any materials, or links to such, received at the meeting that you feel are important to your report.*

- <https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/Public>