

1 **Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**

2 **March 17, 2022**

3 Amelia Schwartz City Planner calls meeting to order at 5:30pm. Due to today's inability of our Chair getting here, we will  
4 need a volunteer to be Chair for tonight's meeting. Peter Hammer has accepted the title.

5 Peter Hammer takes roll call. Pete Hammer, Jo Kuehner, Debbi Franz, Kristi Kaech, Kasey Forsman, Doug Peterson  
6 present.

7 Peter Hammer would like to entertain the motion to approve the agenda. Doug Peterson motions to approve the  
8 agenda. Kristi Kaech seconds the motion. None opposed. Motion passes.

9 Peter Hammer moves on to previous minutes for both November 18, 2021, and February 17, 2022.

10 Doug Peterson motions to approve the minutes. Krist Kaech second's motion. None opposed. Motion passes.

11 No Citizen Business to address.

12 Peter Hammer welcomes the new commissioners Jo Ann Kuehner and Kasey Forsman. Opens discussion regarding  
13 notes for a new meeting date to encourage participation by local community groups.

14 Amelia Schwartz shares that the Chehalis Renaissance Team which is currently rebranding as Experience Chehalis also  
15 holds their meeting on this evening. Annalee Toby has asked that we consider changing our date so that members of  
16 Experience Chehalis could attend Historic Preservation meetings. Michele is also on the Experience Chehalis/ Chehalis  
17 Renaissance Team. We can table this until we have a full commission.

18 Doug Peterson asks what time they meet. Would it be possible to have both meetings but at different times?

19 Amelia Schwartz knows that they meet in the evenings. That would end up making everyone stay much later. Asks the  
20 commissioners if they know what time they start.

21 Kristi Kaech believes it was later, possibly 6pm but isn't sure.

22 Jo Ann Kuehner asks what day it is. Is it Thursday?

23 Krisit Kaech answers that it is Thursday and thinks it is also the third Thursday of every month.

24 Amelia Schwartz states their website says second Friday of each month in the morning. We do not know.

25 Doug Peterson suggests this item be tabled.

26 Jo Ann Kuehner wants to make sure it is ok with all of the commissioners.

27 Kasey Forsman suggests 5pm and then they can meet at 6pm which would give us the opportunity to attend that  
28 perhaps.

29 Doug Peterson is concerned that could affect when Michele would be able to attend because of her work schedule.

30 Jo Ann Kuehner feels that 5:30pm is a good time. She suggests that the commissioners have not had enough time to  
31 think about it. She recommends that they decide whether or not the commissioners would like it later, and then decide  
32 next month.

33 Amelia Schwartz adds that perhaps next month the commissioners could come up with their top 3 evenings and time  
34 ranges.

35 Peter Hammer agrees that the commissioners can think about it and come up with suggestions at next months meeting.  
36 This will be tabled for next meeting. He closes the regular meeting to the open public hearing at 5:37pm.

37 Next item on the agenda is the public hearing on the Westside Park being added to the city historic register and  
38 Pennsylvania Westside Historic District. The Historic Preservation Commission will take public comment on proposed  
39 addition to the Westside Park to the register and Historic District.

40 Amelia Schwartz explains that tonight's decision is to put it on the City Register. This would then start the process of  
41 reaching out to the Department of Archeological and Historical Preservation and changing the national register which  
42 the Westside Hsitorical District is part of. To change the boundaries of that to include this park we would need to get an  
43 application through them as well. The first step is making sure the city wants it. Will summarize the staff report. The  
44 Friends of the Westside Park will share about it as well. The city issued public notice on March 3<sup>rd</sup> on our website as well  
45 as in the Chronicle about this hearing tonight. We did not need an environmental review. There is no project associated  
46 with this. This will not cost the city anything. Attached in the staff report exhibit A which is Jackie Vance's emails  
47 describing the nomination from Friends of The Westside Park, some history and an image of a historic three-story school  
48 no longer in existence. Exhibit B provides a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing that was issued on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.  
49 Exhibit C is a color aerial photograph of the site as well as two color photographs taken two weeks ago by me.

50 Jo Ann Kuehner assumes that the reason the commission would want to do this is to get some funding to improve that  
51 location.

52 Amelia Schwartz believes that is what The Friends of The Westside Park were asking for.

53 Jo Ann Kuehner feels that the park needs a lot of things. She notices the parked cars right up against it. She feels that if  
54 it could be improved by going this direction, it is a good idea.

55 Jacki Vance approaches the stand at 5:41pm introducing herself as the secretary for The Friends of The Westside Park.  
56 She thanks the commissioners for the consideration of being placed on the Historic Register. We are looking for funding  
57 to help improve the park. They are hoping to apply for historic type grants. They would like to keep a historic type feel  
58 to the park by adding the Stenberg light poles seen down Pennsylvania Avenue. Currently there is no lighting around the  
59 park as well as adding safety features.

60 Jo Ann Kuehner suggests fencing too.

61 Jacki Vance states that fencing is planned to go around three quarters of the park not including the side on Ohio Avenue  
62 where parking will be located and improved as well.

63 Jo Ann Kuehner mentions the parking issue. She asks if the city owns the area that is a dead end. There could be  
64 parking made available in that area.

65 Jacki Vance state there will be a change of traffic there. Around the park will only be a one-way street.

66 Jo Ann Kuehner shares pictures she has taken of the park with the other commissioners showing the dead end.

67 Jacki Vance adds that on the Ohio Avenue side, that will be left open from fencing and better parking will be inserted. It  
68 should be completed this summer by the city.

69 Doug Peterson asks if there are any problems currently with people not using the park properly.

70 Jacki Vance answers that they do not have any issues occurring currently but did have people camping out for extended  
71 periods at the bus stop. Sometimes there might be a teenager out there past dark playing basketball. We do not have a  
72 lot of vandalism.

73 Peter Hammer states that it is a very visible park.

74 Doug Peterson thinks that lighting would help.

75 Jacki Vance adds that they are pushing very hard for the lighting. It is in the long-term plans.

76 Kristi Kaech thanks Jacki for all of the work being put into the park. That will be a huge improvement to the area. Is it  
77 still possible to get community funding? Is it a conflict of interest having government funding? Can you go locally and  
78 fundraise?

79 Jacki Vance responds that it would be a better question for the treasurer. She does not know the answer to that  
80 question.

81 Kristi Kaech thinks that our community would step up if the funding on the alternate isn't there.

82 Amelia Schwartz believes that Penny Playground was a mix of community fundraising and grants.

83 Doug Peterson shares that the Rotary was involved quite a bit with Penny Playground.

84 Jacki Vance states that Rotary has taken them under their wing as well. She is glad to be partnering with them. They are  
85 eager to get things moving forward.

86 Kristi Kaech asks if they will work around the trees that are in the park to put in the toys.

87 Jacki Vance says that a lot of people in the neighborhood that want to keep the trees. As far as she knows they are  
88 planning on keeping the trees and having them maintained.

89 Jo Ann Kuehner asks if there has been any thought to honoring the old Westside School.

90 Jacki Vance replies that they want to put some signage up, possibly a reader board with a picture of the old school on it  
91 providing the history of the park and why it is on the historic register. She then steps down from the stand at 5:48pm.

92 Peter Hammer appreciates the presentation and the support for the park.

93 Jo Anne Kuehner is concerned that sometimes when something is made historical there are restrictions.

94 Peter Hammer responds that is generally regarding buildings, windows, doors, facades, etc. He doesn't think there will  
95 be those types of restrictions for a piece of property.

96 Amelia Schwartz does not believe the city has any restrictions for these types of properties.

97 Jo Ann Kuehner shares that her husband went to the Westside School.

98 Jacki Vance adds that the school burned down, was rebuilt and then the earthquake happened.

99 Amelia Schwartz notes that in the staff findings and recommendations it is consistent with the Chehalis Municipal Code  
100 2.66.110 for determining designation. It is over 50 years old. It had a significant roll in the part of development and the  
101 culture of Chehalis, in raising the people and educating the people who then became intrapreneurs and founders of the  
102 city. It is consistent with city of Chehalis Comprehensive Plan CF3.1 which states park and open space acquisition  
103 development and redevelopment should be actively sought through a variety of methods.

104 Peter Hammer closes the public hearing at 5:50pm. He entertains a motion to approve, allowing the Westside Park to  
105 be included in the Pennsylvania Westside Historical District for Chehalis.

106 Doug Peterson makes the motion to approve. Kristi Kaech seconds the motion. None opposed. Motion carried  
107 unanimously.

108 Peter Hammer states that the next meeting will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 unless the commission decides on a new  
109 date. The regular meeting is adjourned at 5:53pm.

110

111 Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

112 Michele Gallagher, Chair

113

114 Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_

115 Laura Fisher, Permit Technician