

1 **Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**

2 **July 21, 2022**

3
4 Pete Hammer calls meeting to order at 5:31pm. Roll call is taken. Present: Pete Hammer, Debbie Franz,
5 Kristi Kaech, Casey Forsman, Jo Ann Kuehner, Jill McNaught.

6 Number 10 of the agenda correction, next meeting will be held August 18, 2022. Number 4 of the
7 agenda correction, approval of meeting minutes for June 16, 2022.

8 Jo Ann Kuehner moves to approve agenda. Kristi Kaech seconds the motion. Motion carried
9 unanimously. Agenda approved with corrections.

10 Jo Ann Kuehner moves to approve the meeting minutes for June 16, 2022. Kristi Kaech seconds the
11 motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12 Next item on the agenda Citizen Business. Community member approached the stand to learn what was
13 going to be planned for Cascade and RE Bennett. Expresses concerns about what the buildings will be
14 used as, whether it be low-income housing or not, parking issues, etc.

15 Pete Hammer addresses citizen at stand to inform him that today's meeting is the discussion of putting
16 these buildings on the city's Historic Register. It does not necessarily pertain to what the owner intends
17 to do with them.

18 Kristi Kaech shares that by putting the buildings on the Historic Register, she thinks it will keep what the
19 developer can or can't do to a higher standard. She believes that the owner is somebody that would
20 care and have interest in the building's potential.

21 Jo Ann Kuehner provides her opinion of the respect she has for the owners. Shares the owners work
22 done on other projects restoring different buildings in the community.

23 Pete Hammer encourages the community member at the stand to continue to express his concerns as
24 things move along in the process.

25 5:41pm community member at the stand steps down.

26 Next item on the agenda Old Business. Jo Ann Kuehner has questions about the code.

27 Tammy Baraconi explains that the code does need to go to the Planning Commission and then the
28 Council.

29 Jo Ann Kuehner references chapter 2.66 of the code for Historic Preservation.

30 Tammy Baraconi clarifies that the Historic Preservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan was passed
31 in June of 2021. It went to the Planning Commission. It still has to go to the Council to be codified. The
32 Comprehensive Plan is the direction that the city wants to go. The code is how we are going to get
33 there. It will be about September or October until the Comprehensive Plan updated.

34 Pete Hammer will look further into the Cowlitz Trail for next month's meeting. Next item on the agenda
35 New Business.

36 Tammy Baraconi shares that a tentative offer has been made by the city for a new planner.

37 Pete Hammer moves to the Public Hearing. The commission will hear the request to place RE Bennett
38 School and Cascade Elementary on the City Historic Register. After taking public comment and carefully
39 deliberating they will decide the matter.

40 Tammy Baraconi explains that before the commissioners is the request for the former schools RE
41 Bennett Elementary and Cascade Elementary be placed on the city of Chehalis Historic Register. Both
42 structures have been evaluated by Historic Preservation professionals. The commissioners have been
43 provided with those reports. She has gone through the code and evaluated it based on the Historic
44 Preservation reports. Staff is prepared to make a recommendation for approval. RE Bennett Junior High
45 School is more than 50 years old and meets criteria's A, B, C, and D of 2.66.110. Cascade Elementary
46 School is also more than 50 years old and meet the criteria of A and D of the code 2.66.110 of the code.
47 For those reasons staff does recommend approval of both structures.

48 Jo Ann Kuehner requests that the Historic Preservation Commission become more involved in the
49 decisions made with regards to colors and maybe murals.

50 Tammy Baraconi confirms that placing it on the Historic Register means that the owner does need to
51 come to the Historic Preservation Commission when there are plans to make changes to the facades of
52 both of those buildings.

53 Jill McNaught asks about the modular buildings on the property.

54 Michael McCowen owner of RE Bennett and Cascade approaches the stand to reassure Jill that those
55 modular buildings are leaving the property. The paint schemes are going to stay the same to the
56 buildings. The only changes being made are that there used to be terracotta on RE Bennett between the
57 bell towers and on top of the bell towers. The only change to the outside would be the plans to put the
58 terracotta back instead of the three-tab roofing. He hopes to have plans within a couple of weeks.

59 Pete Hammer entertains a motion to adopt the findings of fact to approve the RE Bennet School and
60 Cascade Elementary School be placed on the city Historic Register. Jo Ann so moves. Kristi Kaech
61 seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

62 Tammy Baraconi congratulates the commissioners on their first two structures on the Historic
63 Preservation list. Pete Hammer was surprised that they weren't already.

64 Peter Hammer closes the Public Hearing regarding RE Bennett and Cascade Elementary School, then
65 reopens the meeting for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.


66 Jo Ann would like to get some of the members together to do some planning.

67 Tammy Baraconi suggests starting a work plan at the next meeting if so desired.

68 Pete Hammer and Jo Ann Kuehner agree with the idea for the next meeting.

69 Pete Hammer at 5:54 pm entertains the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jo Ann Kuehner so moves. Jill
70 McNaught seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.

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72 Approved by:  _____

73 Pete Hammer, Chair

74 Recorded by:  _____

75 Laura Fisher, Permit Technician

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