

1 **Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**

2 **September 15, 2022**

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4 Pete Hammer called meeting to order at 5:29pm. Roll call is taken. Present: Pete Hammer, Debbie Franz, Kristi Kaech,  
5 Casey Forsman, Jo Ann Kuehner, Jill McNaught.

6 Number 4 of the agenda correction, approval of meeting minutes should be for July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. There being no citizen  
7 business, old business, or new business to address meeting moves to commission business.

8 Tammy Baraconi provided commissioners with a roster that needs to be updated with correct address, phone, and  
9 email.

10 5:33pm Pete Hammer moves to the workshop. Commissioners will review the proposed Historic Preservation Element  
11 for Comprehensive Plan.

12 Tammy Baraconi explains that the Comprehensive Plan is currently going to the approval process. The public hearing  
13 was done with the Planning Commission. It will go to the Council late October. The city has never had a Historic  
14 Preservation Element within the Comprehensive Plan. This is a new Element. Explains the multiple levels of review  
15 required and timeline process.

16 5:37pm Pete Hammer moves to agenda item 9b review of By-Laws.

17 Tammy Baraconi has provided the Chehalis Planning Commission By-Laws as an example for the Historic Preservation  
18 Commissioners to review and reference if they are interested in establishing By-Laws as well. If the commissioners are  
19 interested in something similar, she can create a mockup for further review.

20 5:38pm Jo Ann Kuehner suggests a couple of things be changed but otherwise feels it would be necessary and valuable.

21 Tammy Baraconi will create a mockup for the Historic Preservation Commission and will bring it back to next months  
22 meeting.

23 5:40pm Peter Hammer moves to agenda item 9c Establish Workplan.

24 Tammy Baraconi lists suggestions for a workplan, one being the By-Laws, the other is the Historic Preservation Element  
25 that determines the process the Council has established. She would like to propose changes be made. There currently  
26 is language in the code that gives the Historic Preservation Commission the authority to designate a structure as a  
27 historic structure which can be problematic for the Council. This can have a dramatic impact on tax base. From a  
28 Planner's perspective it should be a decision made by the Council. She requests that they review the code as well.

29 5:43pm Jo Ann Kuehner feels that there should be a watchdog for the downtown area, and they be more involved with  
30 Experience Chehalis and the decisions being made there. She suggests subcommittees.

31 Tammy Baraconi can invite Analee from Experience Chehalis to a meeting.

32 Jo Ann Kuehner has been attending the meetings that Experience Chehalis has on Fridays.

33 Tammy Baraconi adds there is an opening on the Planning Commission.

34 5:48pm Casey Forsman shares a story regarding the granddaughter of an architect Jack Deforest Griffin. He designed a  
35 significant number of buildings here including RE Bennett and the courthouse. She has an article from the Chronline  
36 that lists the buildings he has touched she will share. She feels he should be honored and recognized for his work.

37 5:49pm Jill McNaught points out that next year a lot of the buildings will be their 100-year anniversary.

38 5:50pm Casey Forsman suggests a special commemorative event.

39 Tammy Baraconi proposes that next year in conjunction with Historic Preservation Month they put together something  
40 regarding the buildings that turn 100 years old and possibly get the Chronicle to do an article.

41 5:52pm Casey Forsman suggests that the ghost signs that are still in existence on several of the buildings be touched up  
42 and preserved.

43 The group would like to come up with some connections for next years Historic Preservation Month in May.

44 Tammy Baraconi speaks to the significance in the authority to be a decision-making body. She feels that needs to be  
45 changed so that the Council takes responsibility.

46 The group debates the benefits of taking the decision power away from the Historic Preservation Commission versus the  
47 cons.

48 Tammy Baraconi suggests they be an advisory board. The Council is obligated at state level to be responsible for making  
49 the decision when it comes to tax dollars. When something is put on the local register, it opens the door for them to get  
50 tax benefits.

51 The group has further discussions about their decision-making abilities debating concerns about losing that. They  
52 discuss the subject of building permits and the process involved and how the Historic Preservation Commission will play  
53 a role in the decision making for historical buildings going forward as well as the desire to have more say. The group will  
54 be provided an opportunity to discuss the recommendations made by staff further at the next meeting. It will then go to  
55 Council to hear the opinions of the Historic Preservation Committee. The Council will have to make a decision regarding  
56 the code. After the Council has made a decision, as citizens they have the right to appeal.

57 6:26pm Tammy Baraconi explains that with the next agenda they will continue to have another workshop.

58 6:39pm Pete Hammer entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

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60 Approved by: Pete C. Hammer

61 Peter Hammer, Chair

62 Recorded by: Laura Fisher

63 Laura Fisher, Permit Technician