



Planning Department Newsletter

GRANT APPLICATION APPROVED FOR DOWNTOWN HISTORIC SURVEY

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In April, the city submitted a grant application to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) to conduct an intensive inventory of approximately 20 historic properties in the area surrounding the intersection of Grand Avenue and Main Street. Last week, DAHP informed planning staff that this application had been approved. The grant funding will provide for in-depth archival research and field work to produce a full record of the historic significance of each property.

The National Park Service distributes federal funds to DAHP and its counterpart agencies across the country on an annual basis for purposes of supporting historic preservation activities. By law, DAHP is mandated to pass along ten percent of this federal funding in the form of grant awards to local governments that have been certified to practice historic preservation (known as "Certified Local Governments" or CLGs). So, each year, DAHP solicits applications

from the 50 CLGs in Washington state, offering about \$100,000 in total grant funding. Usually, CLGs collectively request more grant dollars than the fund allotment, so the state review panel must make some tough decisions based on its approval criteria. This year, for the first time in recent memory, the total amount of funding requested by the various CLGs was less than the state



Downtown Pullman has many buildings of historic importance. This photo, from the early 1900s, was taken from Grand Avenue looking east down Main Street.

allocation, so all of the eligible grant applications were approved.

The project to survey properties in downtown Pullman was formulated through the collaborative efforts of the city's Historic Preservation

Commission and planning staff. The study area, roughly bounded by Grand Avenue, Olsen Street, Kamiaken Street, and Paradise Street, contains many commercial buildings of historic significance, including the Flatiron Building (built in 1905), the Anawalt Building (built in 1897), and the Cordova Theater (built in 1927, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places). The total cost of the project is \$15,129. The federal funding passed through DAHP will account for \$8,993 of the total, and the rest will come from donated goods and services by the city and the selected consultant. The inventory work will take place between February and August of 2014. The city will provide written notice of the survey to all affected property owners, and provide them with

an opportunity to decline participation.

This downtown historic survey will advance the city’s objective of developing baseline data related to historic preservation. One of the primary duties of any CLG community is to conduct a comprehensive inventory of its historic resources. The city, with the assistance of consultant Rain Shadow Research Inc., is currently engaged in an intensive inventory of historic properties in the vicinity of NE Maple Street; the findings of this study will be presented at a public meeting later this year. With the Maple Street inventory, the proposed downtown survey, and similar activities in the coming years, the city expects to compile a thorough record of the community’s historic assets in the near future.

CITY HALL REMODEL UNDER WAY

If you’ve visited City Hall recently, you probably know there is an extensive remodel in progress on the second floor. The primary focus of the work so far has been in the former Youth Center at the east end of the building. It is there that contractor Shawn Cole Construction, Inc. of Spokane is converting approximately 2,400 square feet of open floor space into 10 offices, two storage areas, and a small conference room for the public works department staff. The project also entails reconstruction of some work spaces on the west end of the second floor where the existing public works and planning offices are located. The reception area for public works and planning will remain unchanged at its current location.

These improvements will alleviate the cramped quarters that public works employees have occupied in recent times. As the work force has grown, staff members have been forced to create offices in former closets and to double up in offices designed for one person. The employees who will be moving to the east end offices are those who commonly have limited interaction with the general public. Included in this group are some of the building inspectors, engineering technicians, and the deputy public works director. The public works director, senior building inspector, and storm water

services employees will remain in work spaces on the west end of the second floor. Also, planning staff will continue to occupy its existing offices.

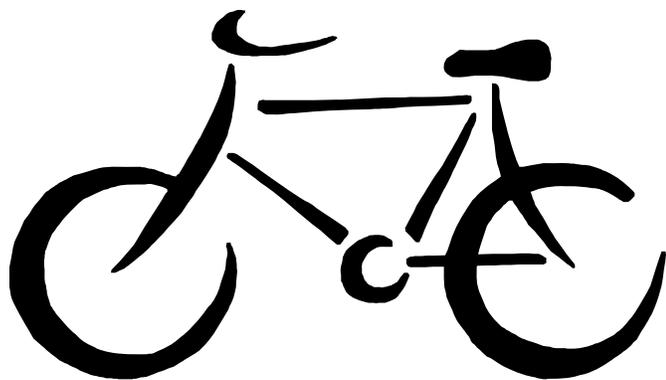


The construction work to convert the former Youth Center to office spaces is proceeding on schedule.

The construction cost for this remodel project is about \$349,000. Only \$21,000 of this amount is coming out of the stressed General Fund, with the remainder being provided by various other funds (e.g., utility funds). The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

WASHINGTON RATED MOST BIKE-FRIENDLY STATE IN COUNTRY

For the sixth year in a row, Washington state has been ranked as the most bike-friendly state in the nation by the League of American Bicyclists. Since 2008, the League has evaluated all 50 states for bicycle accommodations. The rankings are based on funding for biking legislation and enforcement, bicycle programs and policies, provision of infrastructure, promotion and education, and bicycle circulation planning efforts.



The League’s annual assessment is primarily designed to establish best practices for others to follow, since every state has great riding opportunities, dedicated state agency staff, and determined advocates and cyclists of all levels working to improve conditions for bicycle transportation. The League initiates its annual ranking process with a multi-faceted questionnaire that is completed by each state’s lead bicycle coordinator. The information provided is then verified by League staff in concert with advocates in each state. States that continue to promote bicycling and improve conditions for cycling can expect to improve their scores over time.

Washington achieved its top ranking by scoring very high in the legislation/enforcement, promotion/education, and programs/policies categories. The state legislature and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are leading the way by providing bicycle facilities and cycling education. The transportation budget passed by the legislature this year includes \$32 million for bike, pedestrian, and transit improvements. In addition, the WSDOT website (<http://wsdot.wa.gov/bike/default.htm>) supplies a wealth of information on bicycle plans, maps, and laws. Advocacy groups also play a large role in promoting cycling in this state. A representative from the Bicycle Alliance for Washington visited Pullman last month to interact with various parties (including planning department staff) in the interest of developing more bicycle friendly programs and facilities in our local area.

Rounding out the top five in the League’s rankings were Colorado, Oregon, Minnesota, and Delaware. For the full list of state rankings, and other valuable information related to bicycle transportation, visit the League’s website at <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/index.php>.





Pending Land Use Proposals

Displayed below are land use applications submitted to the planning or public works department or city-generated proposals for planning provisions that require a public meeting, public notice, or site plan review in accordance with the city code.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	STATUS
College Hill Design Standards	formulate design standards for new construction	College Hill Core	stakeholders meeting held 10/27/11 on design concepts; staff revising standards
Mary's Park Annexation	annex approximately 2.2 acres to city	southeast of Old Moscow Road/Johnson Avenue intersection	engineering staff preparing legal description for proposed annexation area
Barclay Estate Subdivision No. 3 Preliminary Plat	divide 6.5 acres into 19 lots and public streets in R2 zone	south of intersection of SW Golden Hills Drive and SW Casey Court	staff awaiting application materials
Possible Zoning Code Amendment	ask PC to consider zoning code amendment to allow pigs in city	Citywide	CC deferred to PC 5/7/13; probable PC discussion at 6/26/13 meeting
Krivsky Garage Setback Variance (V-13-2)	allow 3-foot side yard setback for garage	1815 NW Kenny Drive	BOA approved application on 5/20/13
6 Cents/Prints Underground Sign Variance (V-13-3)	allow 101 square feet of signage on 28-foot-wide wall	325 NW State Street	staff awaiting application materials
Alpha Phi Sorority Setback Variance (V-13-4)	construct addition with 6-foot-side yard setback on east side of lot	840 NE California Street	staff reviewing application; possible BOA hearing on 6/17/13
Parks Shop Parking Lot Conditional Use Permit (C-13-1)	create 9 spaces in landscaped parking lot	north of South Street and west of South Fork of Palouse River	staff reviewing application; probable BOA hearing on 7/15/13
College Hill Historic Property Inventory	use federal funds for an historic survey of about 50 properties	vicinity of NE Maple Street	DAHP approved application 6/18/12; consultant selected 2/13; consultant conducting property survey
Downtown Historic Property Inventory Grant Application	use federal funds for an historic survey of about 20 properties	vicinity of Grand Avenue and Main Street	application submitted to DAHP 4/18/13; DAHP approved application 5/20/13
WSU Visitor Center Substantial Development Permit (No. 80)	construct 4,400-square-foot facility adjacent to South Fork of Palouse River	630 E Spring Street	city approved permit 3/29/13; state appeal period expired 5/22/13
SEL Airport Parking Lot Addition site plan (12-13)	construct 29-stall parking lot at SEL airport hangar	7100 Airport Complex North	applicant requested delay in city review to resolve airport safety issues
1015 B Street Boarding House site plan (13-1)	convert single family home to boarding house	1015 NE B Street	staff requested applicant to revise site plan
WSU Visitor Center site plan (13-3)	develop 4,400-square-foot facility on 28,856-square-foot parcel	630 E Spring Street	site plan approved 5/3/13

KEY TO ZONING DISTRICTS: R1 Single Family Residential; RT Residential Transitional; R2 Low Density Multi-Family Residential; R3 Medium Density Multi-Family Residential; R4 High Density Multi-Family Residential; C1 Neighborhood Commercial; C2 Central Business District; C3 General Commercial; I1 Light Industrial; I2 Heavy Industrial; IRP Industrial Research Park; WSU Washington State University

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: CC: City Council; PC: Planning Commission; BOA: Board of Adjustment; HPC: Historic Preservation Commission; DOE: State Department of Ecology; DAHP: State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

NOTES: 1) If an applicant fails to act on a pending application for a period of six months, said application will be dropped from the above list. 2) Numbers in parentheses are planning staff's internal file numbers. 3) Site plan review by city staff is generally conducted for proposed construction of developments other than single family homes, duplexes, or manufactured homes; it does not apply to most construction on the WSU campus.





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