


CITY OF PULLMAN

Public Works and Planning Departments

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Pullman-Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Pete Dickinson, Planning Director 

FOR: Meeting of January 14, 2013

SUBJECT: Veterans' War Memorial Monument

DATE: January 8, 2013

In October, the HPC expressed interest in conducting a discussion with pertinent parties concerning the War Memorial monument at the intersection of Main and Spring Streets. This memorandum provides an update on activities in this regard.

Over the past few weeks, city staff members have fielded questions from architectural firms that will be competing to design and build the WSU Visitor Center adjacent to the subject property. During one of those discussions, an architect said WSU had directed that the design of the new center incorporate the War Memorial monument at its existing location. Soon thereafter, planning staff contacted the WSU real estate office, and personnel there confirmed the university's interest in retaining the obelisk in its current position.

Recently, planning staff has also contacted the following parties who have been involved in previous discussions about the monument: Mark Yrazabal of the local American Legion (American Legion Maynard-Price Post 52), city parks superintendent Alan Davis, and WSU real estate and local relations executive director Mel Taylor.

Mr. Yrazabal stated that, when the question arose last fall about potentially moving the obelisk, the local American Legion group voted in favor of relocating the object to the Pullman Cemetery; he added that that vote was very close. He expressed his personal opinion that placing the monument at the cemetery would offer an opportunity to refurbish the obelisk, add amenities (such as benches), and provide a more favorable space to conduct ceremonies honoring our local veterans. He stated that he and the elected

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commander of the local American Legion, Charles Klaudt, would be amenable to attending a future HPC meeting to discuss this matter further.

Mr. Davis said he would be willing to attend an HPC meeting to participate in a discussion on this topic. He also stated that, if the monument is retained at its existing location, he would be interested in reviewing the plans for any proposed changes to the monument landscaping that could occur as part of the WSU Visitor Center development.

Mr. Taylor confirmed the university's position to keep the monument at its current location. He said WSU would be happy to provide to the HPC drawings of the proposed Visitor Center, which will likely show enhanced landscaping around the obelisk, when such drawings are produced sometime this coming spring.

The HPC is requested to discuss this matter at its January 14 meeting and provide appropriate direction to staff.