MEMORANDUM

TO: Pullman Planning Commission

FROM: Heidi Sowell, Assistant City Planner

FOR: Meeting of January 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Proposed Establishment of Pine

Street Plaza

DATE: January 18, 2006

In February of 2004, the Pullman City Council passed a motion to continue the process of converting a portion of Pine Street into a pedestrian mall. The City has continued to work on the plaza in conjunction with the Riverwalk Project. Just recently, the negotiations concluded to purchase an area of land just north of the plaza in order to establish a new parking lot. This parking area will offset the parking lost with the establishment of Pine Street Plaza. With the completion of the negotiations, the public works department would like to continue the approval process for limiting vehicular access to a portion of Pine Street and the establishment of a pedestrian mall.

The proposed Pine Street Plaza is located on a portion of Pine Street, north of Main Street (<u>See</u> Attachment "A," Site Map). The public works department has provided the Pine Street Plaza Plan for review (<u>See</u> Attachment "B," Pine Street Plaza Plan).

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Section 35.71.040 requires that "before a mall is established, a plan shall be formulated consistent with the city's comprehensive plan...". Also, Pullman Zoning Code Subsection 17.20.070(13) states that one of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission is "to review and report to the City Council on the location, extent, and consistency with the Comprehensive Plan regarding proposals for the establishment, improvement, abandonment, construction, authorization, vacation or dedication of any street, park, or other public way, public building, or structure." The Planning Commission is requested to review and report to the City Council if the Pine Street Plaza Plan is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

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In staff's view, the proposed pedestrian space meets Comprehensive Plan Goals T2 and P1, which read as follows:

GOAL T2: Maintain and enhance the nonmotorized transportation system consistent with the city's approved pedestrian/bicycle circulation plan.

GOAL P1: Maximize the quality of life in Pullman by providing open space, trails, parks, and recreational opportunities and facilities throughout the community.

Based on the above information, planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission find the proposal consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Attachments