



CITY OF
TUMWATER

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**Online via Zoom and In Person at
Tumwater Fire Department
Headquarters, Training Room, 311 Israel
Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA 98501**

**Thursday, September 17, 2026
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Changes to Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - [a.](#) Historic Preservation Commission 04-16-2026
5. Public Comment
- [6.](#) DOT Building and Sign Update
- [7.](#) Deschutes Valley Trail and Signage Update
- [8.](#) Carlyon Bridge Painting
9. Next Meeting Date - 10/15/2026
10. Adjourn

Meeting Information

The public are welcome to attend in person, by telephone or online via Zoom.

Watch Online

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86005037704?pwd=cKanhgqVsFugMPFyAh9BnU0cwRb2PJ.1>

Listen by Telephone

Call (253) 215-8782, listen for the prompts and enter the Webinar ID 860 0503 7704 and Passcode 004061.

Public Comment

The public may submit comments by sending an email to tumwaterparks@ci.tumwater.wa.us, no later than 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Comments are submitted directly to the Commission members and will not be read individually into the record of the meeting.

Post Meeting

Video of this meeting will be recorded and posted on our City Meeting page: <https://tumwater-wa.municodemeetings.com>.

Accommodations

The City of Tumwater takes pride in ensuring that people with disabilities are able to take part in, and benefit from, the range of public programs, services, and activities offered by the City. To request an accommodation or alternate format of communication, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator directly, call (360) 754-4129 or email ADACoordinator@ci.tumwater.wa.us. For vision or hearing impaired services, please contact the Washington State Relay Services at 7-1-1 or 1-(800)-833-6384.

MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

April 16, 2026



- CONVENE:** 6:30 p.m.
- PRESENT:** Chair Dave Shipley and Commissioners Don Trosper, Alex Rossiter and Dave Nicandri
- Excused: Commissioners Rob Paylor and Marnie Slakey
- Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Denney, Recreation Manager Todd Anderson, and Assistant City Administrator Kelly Adams
- CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** No changes to the agenda.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Nicandri moved, seconded by Commissioner Rossiter, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2026, as published. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment.
- SIGNAGE PROJECTS:** Director Denney discussed funding potential to preserve the historic sign at the former Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) headquarters site on Capitol Boulevard. Commissioner Nicandri led a discussion on options for City staff and the Commission to communicate with WSDOT regarding historical preservation during the demolition of the site.
- MOTION:** Commissioner Nicandri moved, seconded by Commissioner Trosper, to approve no more than three members from this Commission to serve as part of a technical oversight committee for salvage operations for the historic highways department building demolition

project to work under the direction of City staff to include as is properly envisioned both the stone carvers and representatives from WSDOT.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS: Director Denney discussed options for replacing the sign at the City's Union/Calvary Pioneer Cemetery. The city received a grant in the amount of \$3,566 to replace the existing sign with a plastic sign. The Tenino Stonecarvers have proposed making a sandstone sign for the cemetery for \$6,000.

MOTION: **Commissioner Nicandri moved, seconded by Chair Shipley, to allocate \$2,434 from their fund to move forward with making a sandstone sign for the cemetery.**

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT: **With there being no further business, Chair Shipley adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.**

Prepared by Todd Anderson, Parks and Recreation Manager

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Chuck Denney, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: September 17, 2026
SUBJECT: DOT Building and Sign Update

1) Recommended Action:

Information Item

2) Background:

DOT has completed the bidding process for the demolition project and is currently finalizing their execution paperwork with the selected contractor. They anticipate issuing notice to proceed this month, with work commencing late September or early October.

They are still tracking salvage of the cast lettering on building 1. DOT intends to solicit a change order from the contractor for the work immediately after issuance of notice to proceed.

Chris Linden, DOT Facilities Capital Delivery Manager

3) Alternatives:

This will be a discussion on the project to include details on the process, costs and materials. Chris Linden, DOT Facilities Capital Delivery Manager, will attend the meeting to discuss the project.

4) Attachments:

None

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Chuck Denney, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: September 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Deschutes Valley Trail and Signage Update

1) Recommended Action:

Information/Discussion Item

2) Background:

The Deschutes Valley Trail (DVT) has been in planning and design for over 20 years. The first phase was completed in 2017 connecting Tumwater's Historical Park with the Brewery Park at Tumwater Falls.

The next phase will connect the Tumwater Valley Golf course with Deschutes Valley Park. Combining grant funding with Park Impact Fees and funds from the Tumwater Metropolitan Park District, this phase will go out to bid later this year.

Interpretive signage will be a separate phase from the construction project as it does not fit w/in some of the funding criteria being used to build the trail. Development of the signage, including the recognition of the 47th Parallel, will be a part of that public process.

3) Alternatives:

Staff will provide an overview of the trail project, timeline, and construction. Discussion will also include the development of interpretive signage/art and storytelling.

4) Attachments:

None

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Chuck Denney, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: September 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Carlyon Bridge Painting

1) Recommended Action:

Requested Information Item

2) Background:

Before Interstate 5 was built, the Pacific Highway offered the main route between Seattle and Portland. That highway made several 90 degree turns as it crossed the Deschutes River in Tumwater. This circuitous route was straightened in 1937-38 by the construction of the Carlyon Bridge, named for Senator P. H. Carlyon who was active in the Good Roads movement of the time.

The bridge was not just a river crossing, but also offered an opportunity to create public art. Four concrete totem poles and their associated concrete pylons and decorative railings adorn the bridge deck. The totems have been touted as the world's only concrete, electrified totem poles.

The totems and pylons were originally plain, unpainted concrete. In 1951, Peter G. Schmidt of the Olympia Brewing Company received permission from the State Highway Department to paint the totems and pylons in bright colors. A letter from Peter noted, "We are very happy that the Highway Department gave us the privilege of painting them [the totems] in regular totem colors and which, by the way, was done by a native Alaskan painter whose mother was a full blood native Alaskan, and he did a fine job in selecting colors."

When Interstate 5 was completed in the late 1950s, the bridge was deeded to the City of Tumwater. The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. In 1989-90, the City of Tumwater cleaned the bridge, rewired the lamps, and repainted the totems and pylons in cream, coral, and turquoise. The bridge was rededicated on July 23, 1990.

3) Alternatives:

Discussion may include the history of the bridge/pylons/totems, painting, colors, interpretive signage and tribal considerations.

4) Attachments:

None