



Historical Commission Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Keogh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Keogh, Vice Chair Kevin Wyckoff, Kimberly Goetz, Ed Holm, Avani Kumar

Commissioners Absent (excused): Tula'i Patane

Staff Present: Director Jen Burbidge, Museum Curator Erin Quinn Valcho, Executive Assistant Carter Gibson

3. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Keogh read the land acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. Approval of the Agenda

Vice Chair Wyckoff motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Holm seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approval of August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Wyckoff motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Holm seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Business Items

A. Youth Councilmember Introduction

Avani Kumar, Youth Councilmember

Youth Councilmember Kumar introduced herself to the board.

B. Historical Property Special Valuation Application

915 Bowker St SE, Lacey WA 98503 (Bowker House)

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator

Museum Curator Quinn Valcho shared the Special Tax Valuation eligibility review process and the Commission's responsibilities in it. She also introduced the Bowker House application and next steps in the review process. The Historical Commission will make recommendation to approve or deny the application at the regular November meeting.

C. Recent Acquisitions

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator

Museum Curator Quinn Valcho presented the new acquisitions.

Vice Chair Wyckoff motioned to approve the new acquisitions. Commissioner Holm seconded. Motion carried.

D. Lacey Museum Move

Jen Burbidge, Director

Director Burbidge announced that, ahead of its reopening, the Lacey Museum will be offering free private tours of the new space in December.

7. Reports

A. Lacey Historical Society

The Society's 2025 priorities continue to be finding ways to honor Dr. Ehlers and revitalizing the memorial garden.

B. Policy StEPs Committee

The committee is on hiatus.

C. Commissioners

Commissioner Goetz flagged a need to update City wayfinding signage for the new museum location.

D. Chair

Chair Keogh shared appreciation for recent HistoryTalk event.

E. Museum Curator

Museum Curator Quinn Valcho reported:

- September's HistoryTalks! event was hosted by Jarvis Harris and Joe Foss who shared insights from their five-week journey touring Black historical sites and landmarks across the United States. The event had 61 attendees.
- October's HistoryTalks! event was hosted by Humanities Washington with speaker LaToya Brackett who spoke on the innovations created by African Americans under oppression. The event had 32 attendees.
- The planned November HistoryTalks! event will be hosted by historian and author Dave Nicandri who will discuss the failed attempts at discovering the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic side of North America.
- Recruitment is still underway for the Historical Commission's two vacant positions.
- The Historical Commission intends to hold 2026 presiding officer nominations and elections during the Commission's November meeting.
- The Lacey Museum submitted an application for Lacey's lodging tax funding. The Lacey Lodging Tax Advisory Committee intends to make funding determinations on October 16, 2025.

F. Director

Director Burbidge reported:

- In 2022, the City of Lacey purchased a 1.8-acre parcel of property adjacent to Long Lake Park. The house on the property is eligible for the Lacey Register of Historic Places. Since 1983, this parcel has been part of the City's long-term plan and vision to add to the current park for community access. The City will demolish the house and garage because future planning for this site does not include an indoor facility, capital and maintenance costs to improve the house are too high (with no funding source identified), and ongoing vandalism at the site is a burden on City staff and budget.
- The intended timeline for the house to be demolished is summer of 2026, which is the next step to transform the parcel for community access. Appropriate steps were taken to document the property per policy when demolishing historic structures.
- Director Burbidge provided a summary of two separate items she presented during the September 23, 2025 City Council Work Session: (1) a report of a five-year fundraising plan that was developed for the department and (2) next-steps discussion with the Council regarding the Metropolitan Park District proposal.
- The Historical Commission annual report will be provided to the City Council during the January 27, 2025 City Council Worksession.

8. Adjourn

Chair Keogh adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.