



Historical Commission Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chair Kevin Wyckoff, Vice Chair Jim Keogh , Ed Holm, Gary Montgomery, David Shipley

Commissioners Absent (excused): Kimberly Goetz

Commissioners Absent (unexcused): Avani Kumar

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

3. Land Acknowledgment

Vice Chair Keogh read the land acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Shipley moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Keogh seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approval of December 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Keogh moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Shipley seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Business Items

A. Bowker House Special Valuation Agreement: 10 Year Monitoring

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator

Museum Curator Quinn Valcho detailed the Historical Commission's obligation for monitoring the Bowker House, as it pertains to the requirements outlined in the special tax valuation agreement.

B. Jacob Smith House Nomination Form: Lacey Register of Historic Places

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator

Museum Curator Quinn Valcho provided an overview of the Jacob Smith House's nomination to the Lacey Register of Historic Places. The Historical Commission will be asked to vote on the nomination at a future meeting.

C. 2026 Historical Commission Work Plan

Jen Burbidge, Director

Director Burbidge shared the proposed updates to the Commission's work plan: the addition of the Commission's review of the City Council's Public Art and Monuments Policy and the correction of Chair Wyckoff's title.

Vice Chair Keogh moved to approve the work plan as amended. Commissioner Shipley seconded. Motion carried.

7. Reports

A. Lacey Historical Society

The Historical Society reported having nearly 150 members, a significant increase from recent years; the Society's board membership has increased to fifteen seats; and members continue to pursue ways to honor Dr. Ehlers.

B. Policy StEPs Committee

The committee is on hiatus.

C. Commissioners

Vice Chair Keogh visited the new Lacey Museum again, independently, now that it is open to the public. Commissioner Shipley shared appreciation for tour the Historical Commission was given of the new Lacey Museum.

D. Chair

Chair Wyckoff reported that Commissioner Patane resigned from the Historical Commission. Staff will recruit for the now vacant position.

E. Museum Curator

Director Burbidge provided the Museum Curator's report. January's HistoryTalks! event was hosted by Art Dolan who shared the history leading up to the Declaration of Independence. In lieu of a traditional HistoryTalks! event in February, staff will host *An Evening at the Museum*. The new Lacey Museum hosted ninety-five visitors in preview tours before officially opening to the public on January 15, 2026. Progress continues on setting up the Research Center.

F. Director

Director Burbidge reported staff will be scheduling time for the Historical Commission to tour the Bowker House soon; the roof replacement for the Jacob Smith House is nearing completion; the Historical Commission is slated to share its 2025 accomplishments and 2026 work plan with the City Council on February 24, 2026; and the Parks, Culture and Recreation department's 2025 Quarter 4 program updates are included in the agenda packet.

8. Adjourn

Chair Wyckoff adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.