

City of Placerville Inter Office Memo City Manager's Office



To: Planning Commission

From: Cleve Morris, City Manager

cc: Director of Development Services

Date: January 7, 2025

Re: City Council Direction Regarding Historic Preservation

Planning Commission Members:

Thank you for the work you have done over the past two years to further explore ways to enhance Historic Preservation in the City. On behalf of the City Council, we appreciate the work you have done and especially the work of the Commission's Special Committee.

As some of you are aware, at the meeting on October 22, 2024, the Council directed me to prepare a memo for the Commission to provide direction on how to proceed. The Council did not ask to review the memo so this is taken on my behalf based on the discussion at that meeting. Should there be questions and or concerns with any of these items, we can return to the Council to obtain further direction if necessary.

The following items will be listed in the same order as the memo which was provided. However, you will note that these are not in order of priority and I will attempt to provide that clarity.

Recommendation 1: Improve Community Knowledge of the Historic Districts.

Council Direction:

- Review the Website and identify improvements that can be made to help educate the public. Mayor Neau offered to assist with this task. However, it may also be good to have one or two Commissioners review and make recommendations to the full Commission.
- Informational Flyers. It was agreed that this can be easily done and distributed through the Utility Bill mailing. Mayor Neau also offered to work on the flyer. However, again it may be good for one or two commissioners to work on this task. If this is done it would be good to coordinate with Mayor Neau.
- Install signage at entryways to Historic Districts: Although the Council does not disagree with this item, it was felt it is not a priority and could possibly be taken on by a Non-Profit with interest in Historic Preservation. Prior to any signage being installed, it would need to be approved by the City Council.
- Conduct Information Workshops on Historic Districts: It was agreed this would be helpful. However, the Council did not feel special workshops would be

necessary but that they could be done as a part of a Planning Commission Meeting.

Recommendation 2: Review Historic District Inventory and Update as Needed.

Council Direction: Although the Council agrees with this recommendation, they do not feel it is a priority at this time. In addition, due to the cost of the program, it is recommended that grant funds be sought to complete this project. It was noted that this cannot be done by just anyone but needs to be done by a professional in this field.

Recommendation 3: Consider Revising the Current, or Adopting a New Historic District Ordinance.

Council Direction: It was agreed that although this may need to be done at some point, it should wait until other recommendations have been completed, such as Recommendation 4 below. The outcome of Recommendation 4 should provide direction as to whether or not a new/revised ordinance is necessary.

Recommendation 4: Systematic Examination of the Current Standard For Review

Council Direction: The Council agrees with this recommendation and felt this should be the highest priority for the Commission to work on. Using information from the Secretary of Interior's Standards, create a framework to more clearly guide the Commission in their decision-making process. In considering these guidelines, the Council listed the following items that should be reflected in the recommendations:

- Age of the Structure. (Just because it is old does not mean it is historic)
- Historic Designation of the Structure (Is it on a Historic Register)
- Consider a year to establish a cutoff for historic designation (1950?)
- Wildfire Safety (Consider fire safe materials as part of the recommendation)
- Focus on most common concerns. (Windows and Siding)