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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

STAFF REPORT

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Jacqui Kamp, Planner III

PREPARED BY: Sharon Lumbantobing, Planner II

DATE: April 13, 2018

SUBJECT: CPZ2018-00012 Clark County Unified Development Code (Title 40.250.030) Amendments – Historic Preservation Code

BACKGROUND

This is a proposal to amend the Clark County Unified Development Code (Title 40.250.030) pertaining to Historic Preservation. The Clark County Historic Preservation program was created to protect the county's rich heritage. Currently, there are almost 100 sites designated as historic in the county. The role of the Historic Preservation Program is to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and prehistoric resources as well as preserve and rehabilitate eligible historic and cultural resources for future generations.

Clark County is a Certified Local Government (CLG), which means that it has established a local historic preservation program that meets federal and state standards set by the State Historic Preservation Officer of the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the National Park Service for certification. The responsibilities of a Certified Local Government include maintaining a historic preservation commission, surveying local historic properties, enforcing state and local preservation laws, reviewing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Clark County Historic Register, and providing for public participation in historic preservation activities.

Title 40.250.030 was last updated in 2009. Recent cases highlighted the need for a code update in 2018. The proposed code changes: add new definitions, clarify processes related to nominating, amending, delisting, and appealing properties on the Clark County Historic Register, provide editorial changes, and update references to other sections of Clark County Code, RCW and WAC.

All the cities in Clark County have an Intergovernmental Agreement with the county to operate the Historic Preservation Program. Later this year, the county's Historic Preservation staff will assist the other cities in the county to update their historic preservation codes to ensure that they are in synch with the county's historic preservation code.

PROPOSED ACTION

This is a proposal to amend Title 40.250.030 Historic Preservation Code. A summary of proposed changes is as follows:

- Add new definitions for specific terms used in the context of historic preservation.
- Update the Board of County Commissioners to “County Council”.
- Replace the word “property(ies)” with “buildings, objects, sites or structures”.
- Update references to other code sections in the Clark County Code (Title 40), RCW and WAC.
- Clarify the powers and duties of the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Clarify gaps and inconsistencies with existing processes and timelines (nominating, appealing, amending, delisting) for properties on the Clark County Historic Register.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

A Notice of Determination of Non-Significance and SEPA Environmental Checklist was published in the paper of record on April 17, 2018, and comments are due on May 2, 2018. The proposed code changes to Title 40.250.030 will be sent to the Department of Commerce in early May 2018.

NEXT STEPS

The Clark County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on June 21, 2018 to review and make a recommendation to the county council on these proposed changes to Title 40.250.030. Then the County Council will hold a public hearing in August 2018 to review and consider these proposed changes.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the information presented in this report and the supporting documents, staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission forward a recommendation of **APPROVAL** to the Clark County Planning Commission.