

13.07.060 Tacoma Register of Historic Places – Nomination and designation process for Historic Special Review and Conservation Districts.

A. Members of the City Council or Landmarks Preservation Commission may propose consideration of a Historic Special Review or Conservation District. A proposal may come in response to a request made by residents or community groups. Such requests should be prioritized using the following criteria:

1. Appropriate documentation of eligibility is readily available. Survey documentation is already prepared or could be easily prepared by an outside party in a timely manner; and
2. For proposed historic districts, the area appears to possess a high level of significance, based upon existing documentation or survey data; or
3. For proposed conservation districts, preliminary analysis indicates that the area appears to have a distinctive character that is desirable to maintain; and
4. A demonstrated substantial number of property owners appear to support such a designation, as evidenced by letters, petitions or feedback from public workshops; and
5. Creation of the district is compatible with and supports community and neighborhood plans; or 6. The area abuts another area already listed as a historic district or conservation district; or 7. The objectives of the community cannot be adequately achieved using other land use tools.

B. District Designation – Landmarks Preservation Commission.

1. Public Hearing. Following a request by the City Council or by a quorum vote of the members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding such a request, Building and Land Use Services staff shall:

- a. Notify other City Departments and Divisions, as appropriate, of the proposed designation.
- b. Schedule a public hearing.
- c. Give written notice, by first-class mail, of the time, date, place, and subject of the Commission's meeting to consider designation of the district as a Historic Special Review District.
- d. This notice shall be given not less than 14 days prior to the meeting to all taxpayers of record of the subject property, as indicated by the records of the Pierce County Assessor, taxpayers of record of properties within 400 feet of the subject property, and to the Neighborhood Council of the affected area. Notice shall also be submitted for publication to the newspaper of record.

e. Conduct the public hearing in accordance with the notice given, at which the owner or owners of the property involved, the owners of all abutting property, and other interested citizens or public officials shall be entitled to be heard.

2. The Landmarks Preservation Commission shall, by a majority vote of quorum, recommend to the Planning Commission approval, disapproval, or approval with modification of a proposed Historic Special Review or Conservation District based upon the criteria for designation listed in this chapter, the goals and purposes of this chapter and the goals and policies contained within the Preservation Plan element of the Comprehensive Plan.

C. District Designation – Planning Commission.

1. Each proposal for a new Historic Special Review District or Conservation District and the respective Landmarks Preservation Commission recommendation shall then be considered by the Planning Commission of the City pursuant to the procedures for area-wide zoning in TMC 13.02.053.

2. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of such hearing shall be given by Building and Land Use Services as provided in the aforementioned section. In addition, each taxpayer of record in a proposed Historic Special Review or Conservation District and within 400 feet of the proposed district shall be notified by mail.

3. In making a recommendation to the City Council, the Planning Commission shall consider the conformance or lack of conformance of the proposed designation with the Comprehensive Plan of the City. The Planning Commission may recommend approval of, or approval of with modifications, or deny outright the proposal, and shall promptly notify the Landmarks Preservation Commission of the action taken.

4. If the Planning Commission recommends approval or approval with modifications of the proposed designation, in whole or in part, it shall transmit the proposal, together with a copy of its recommendation, to the City Council.

5. If the Planning Commission denies the proposed designation, such action shall be final; provided, that the owners or authorized agents of at least 80 percent of the property proposed to be designated, measured by assessed valuation of said property at the time of the Commission's decision, may appeal such disapproval to the City Council within 14 days. For owners of multiple properties, property ownership for the purpose of appeal is calculated as the sum total of the assessed valuation of all affected property.

6. If the proposal is initiated by the City Council, the matter shall be transmitted to the City Council for final determination regardless of the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

D. District Designation – City Council.

1. The City Council shall have final authority concerning the creation of Historic Special Review or Conservation

Districts in the same manner as provided by the City Council in TMC 13.02.053.

2. Pursuant to the aforementioned procedures, the Council may, by ordinance, designate a certain area as a Historic Special Review District and/or Conservation District. Each such designating ordinance shall include a description of the characteristics of the Historic Special Review or Conservation District which justifies its designation, and shall include the legal description of the Historic Special Review District.

3. Within ten days of the effective date of an ordinance designating an area as a Historic Special Review or Conservation District, the Historic Preservation Officer shall send to the owner of record of each property within said district, and to Building and Land Use Services, a copy of the ordinance and a letter outlining the basis for such designation, and the obligations and restrictions which result from such designation, in addition to the requirements of the building and zoning codes to which the property is otherwise subject.

4. Historic District property inventories, identifying contributing and noncontributing properties, shall be adopted upon designation of each historic district and maintained and reviewed annually by the Commission. Such inventories shall be kept on file and available to the public at the Historic Preservation Office.

E. The City Council may request to amend or rescind the designation of a Historic Special Review District or Conservation District pursuant to the same procedure as set forth in this chapter and Section 13.02.053 for original designation and area-wide rezones. Amendments or de-designations that are requested by Council shall be transmitted to Council for final determination, regardless of the recommendations of the Planning Commission or Landmarks Preservation Commission. (Ord. 27995 Ex. H; passed Jun. 14, 2011; Ord. 27893 Ex. A; passed Jun. 15, 2010; Ord. 27748 Ex. A; passed Oct. 14, 2008; Ord. 27466 § 36; passed Jan. 17, 2006; Ord. 27429 § 3; passed Nov. 15, 2005)