CITY OF LYNDEN – HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM STRATEGY

1. CURRENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of Lyden formed its historic preservation program when it passed its Historic Preservation Ordinance (No 1492) in November 2015. The Ordinance adopted a new chapter, Chapter 19.65 Historic Preservation, to the Lyden Municipal Code and instituted a process for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic resources within the City of Lyden.

The Historic Preservation Ordinance states that its purpose “is to provide for the identification, evaluation, designation, and protection of designated historic and prehistoric resources within the boundaries of the City of Lyden and preserve and rehabilitate eligible historic properties within the City of Lyden for future generations through special valuation.” The Ordinance further outlines six benefits of historic preservation:

A. Safeguard the heritage of the City of Lyden as represented by those buildings, districts, objects, sites and structures which reflect significant elements of the City of Lyden’s history;
B. Foster civic and neighborhood pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past, and a sense of identity based on the City of Lyden’s history;
C. Stabilize or improve the aesthetic and economic vitality and values of such sites, improvements and objects;
D. Assist, encourage and provide incentives to private owners for preservation, restoration, redevelopment and use of outstanding historic buildings, districts, objects, sites and structures;
E. Promote and facilitate the early identification and resolution of conflicts between preservation of historic resources and alternative land uses; and.
F. Conserve valuable material and energy resources by ongoing use and maintenance of the existing built environment.

The Ordinance also established the 5-member Lyden Historic Preservation Commission (LHPC) and the Lyden Register of Historic Places. As February 2018, the City only has one building on its Register of Historic Places, the Lauckhart Building.

In establishing its ordinance and historic preservation commission, the City of Lyden applied for Certified Local Government (CLG) status. The City of Lyden received certification as a Certified Local Government in 2016.
2. Preservation Strategy

As a young historic preservation program and CLG, the LHPC is ready to map out a long-term vision for preservation in Lynden and how it relates to and supports the community. The following goals will help guide the vision for the LHPC for the next 8 years, when the City of Lynden will update its Comprehensive Plan. It is recommended that preservation-related goals be included within the next update to the Comprehensive Plan. Specific action items are listed beneath each goal to provide a means to achieve these goals.

The first goal for the new program is to increase public awareness of the economic and heritage value of historic preservation. The second goal is to increase listings to the National and Lynden Register of Historic Places. These two goals and their related action items support each other to increase public awareness and community support of historic preservation efforts in the City of Lynden.

Goal 1. Increase public awareness of the economic and heritage value of historic preservation.

This goal supports benefits B and D as outlined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Action 1.1. Establish May as Historic Preservation Month every year.

- Have City Council issue a proclamation at a May city council meeting that May is preservation month (every year).
- Create at least 1 program each year for Preservation Month. Ideas for programs include:
  - A walking tour led by a local historian;
  - A history and/or built environment trivia night at a local restaurant, coffee shop, or pub; and,
  - An informational workshop educating real estate agents on historic preservation and its incentives.
- Seek out partnerships for any preservation month events to ensure both a broad reach and to cultivate partners that fulfill the heritage advocacy role within the city.
- Consider a partnership with the health department and/or the Pioneer Museum to promote a walking tour at lunch time to create a connection between walking/health and history (Ex: Tacoma’s Downtown on the Go! Program which sponsors lunch-time walks and often features history themes).
- Connect with area heritage groups to support their programs and promote the historic preservation program.
- Attend CLG training with DAHP or the City of Tacoma to connect with other Commissioners. It is key to remember that the Commission is a regulatory entity representing the City and not an advocacy group.

Action 1.2. Establish a social media presence for the historic preservation program.

- Consider establishing a Facebook and Instagram page for the historic preservation program (or generate posts through a city or department page). Facebook and Instagram have the same sign-in credentials and you can automatically generate a matching Face-
book post from any Instagram post. Establish a clear educational and information sharing role and rely on partners and community stakeholders to serve as advocates.

- Develop a hashtag (#) identifier for the City of Lynden to group postings related to historic preservation. Examples of these include #McMinvilleMatters used by the City of McMinnville, Oregon, and #ThisPlaceMatters used by the National Trust.

- If Facebook and Instagram are not viable options, consider a quarterly newsletter and build up a distribution list to let people know about upcoming heritage-related events. This could be an email distributed newsletter with the email sign up on the city website and/or as part of the email have a sign up link at the bottom of the email.

Goal 2. Increase the number of listings to the National and Lynden Registers of Historic Places.

This goal supports benefits A, B, and F as outlined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

**Action 2.1. Conduct educational talks and site visits about the effects and benefits of listing.**

- Reach out to DAHP for support or partner up with neighboring jurisdictions to host a workshop on the historic register listing process.

- This type of workshop could occur during Preservation Month and could be sponsored by an area heritage or business association.

**Action 2.2. List a City of Lynden-owned property to the Lynden Register of Historic Places.**

- Listing a city-owned property to the historic register will demonstrate the city’s investment in its historic preservation program.

**Action 2.3. Assist property owners with nomination development.**

- Looking to other CLG programs for examples, create a simple “how to” guide for property owners to research and nominate their historic properties.

- Provide as much information on the historic preservation website to help property owners prepare their nomination.

- Conduct outreach to property owners of properties recommended for NRHP and/or LRHP eligibility as part of the 2018 survey to ask if they are interested in knowing more about their properties. (Refer to the Recommendations section of the survey for details.)

**Action 2.4. Continue survey and inventory work based on 2018 Reconnaissance survey recommendations.** (Refer to the Recommendations section of the survey for details on each of the following recommendations.)

- Conduct background research on ethnic settlement within and immediately around the city.

- Conduct archival research in the *Lynden Tribune* by decade to create a finding aid of events and town development.

- Consider industrial area survey work, within the area loosely bounded by Main and Grover streets (south), Nooksack Avenue (east), Drayton Street (north), and Lynden Middle School (west).
• Conduct commercial core research to work block by block and identify the building histories, past uses, owners, builders, and designers.

• Conduct individual building research identified as part of the 2018 survey.
  » 116 E Front Street: research the original owner, builder, and occupancy.
  » 1010 Front Street: research the original designer and how this building was used by the church.
  » 1300 Front Street: research the original owner, builder, and occupancy.