

Instructions to reader: [EMC 2.96](#), regarding Historic Resources, will be repealed and replaced with this chapter regarding the Historical Commission. Standards for Historic Resources can be found in the Unified Development Code in Chapter 19.28. For a summary of the effect of the changes to this chapter, please visit the Rethink Zoning Library at <https://everettwa.gov/2453/Rethink-Zoning-Library>.

Chapter 2.96 Historical Commission

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2.96.010 Created.

A historical commission is created which shall consist of nine members.

2.96.020 Members.

- A. Members of the historical commission shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council. Additionally, two individuals may be appointed by the mayor with the approval of council to serve in the capacity of alternates. Alternates shall serve in the absence of members when so asked by the commission chairperson and when serving shall have the same powers and responsibilities as duly appointed commission members.
- B. Composition of the Commission.
 - 1. All members of the commission must have a demonstrated interest and competence in historic preservation and possess qualities of impartiality and broad judgment.
 - 2. The commission shall always include at least three professionals who have experience in identifying, evaluating and protecting historic resources and are selected from among the disciplines of history, architecture, architectural history, historic preservation, planning, cultural anthropology, archaeology, cultural geography, and American studies. A commission action that would otherwise be valid shall not be rendered invalid by the temporary vacancy of one or more of the professional positions, unless the commission action is related to meeting Certified Local Government (CLG) responsibilities cited in the certification agreement between the city and the State Historic Preservation Officer. Furthermore, exception to the residency requirement of commission members may be granted by the mayor and city council in order to obtain representatives from these disciplines.
 - 3. In making appointments, the mayor may consider names submitted from any source, but the mayor shall notify history and city development related organizations of vacancies so that names of interested and qualified individuals may be submitted by such organizations for consideration along with names from any other source.

2.96.030 Terms of members.

The original appointment of members to the commission shall be as follows: three for two years, three for four years, and three for six years. Thereafter, appointments shall be made for a six-year term. Vacancies shall be filled by the mayor for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

2.96.040 Functions.

The primary responsibility of the Everett historical commission is to identify and actively encourage the conservation of the city's historic resources by initiating and maintaining a register of historic places and reviewing proposed changes to register properties; to raise community awareness of the city's history and historic resources; and to serve as the city's primary resource in matters of history and preservation.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Everett historical commission shall engage in the following:

- A. Maintain a comprehensive inventory of historic resources within the boundaries of the city known as the Everett historic resource survey; publicize and periodically update survey results. This designation shall not change or modify the underlying zone classification;
- B. Initiate and maintain the Everett register of historic places. This official register shall be compiled of buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts identified by the commission as having historic significance worthy of recognition by the city and encouragement of efforts by owners to maintain, rehabilitate and preserve properties;
- C. Review nominations to the Everett register of historic places according to adopted review criteria and standards;
- D. Review proposals to construct, change, alter, modify, remodel, move, demolish and significantly affect properties or districts on the Everett register of historic places and adopt standards in its rules to be used to guide this review and the issuance of a certificate of appropriateness;
- E. Review applications for special property tax valuation in connection with substantial improvements to properties on the Everett register of historic places consistent with Chapter 84.26 RCW and locally established criteria and procedures;
- F. Conduct all commission meetings in compliance with Chapter 42.30 RCW, Open Public Meetings Act, to provide for adequate public participation and adopt standards in its rules to guide this action;
- G. Participate in, promote and conduct public information, educational and interpretive programs pertaining to historic resources;
- H. Provide information to the public on methods of maintaining the rehabilitating historic properties. This may take the form of pamphlets, newsletters, workshops or similar activities;
- I. Officially recognize excellence in the rehabilitation of historic buildings, structures, sites and districts, and new construction in historic areas; and encourage appropriate measures for such recognition;
- J. Be informed about and provide information to the public and city departments on incentives for preservation of historic resources including legislation, regulations and codes which encourage the use and adaptive reuse of historic properties;
- K. Submit nominations to the State and National Registers of Historic Places;
- L. Investigate and report to the city council on the use of various federal, state, local or private funding sources available to promote historic resource preservation in the city;
- M. Establish liaison support, communication and cooperation with federal, state and other local government entities which will further historic preservation objectives, including public education, within the Everett area;
- N. Review and comment to the planning commission or hearing examiner, depending on jurisdiction, on land use, housing and redevelopment, municipal improvement and other types of planning and programs undertaken by any agency of the city, other neighboring communities, the school districts, the county, the state or federal governments, as they relate to historic resources of the city;
- O. Serve as the local review board for the purpose of approving applications for special property tax valuation per Chapter 84.26 RCW, and entering into an agreement with the property owner for the duration of the special valuation during which time the review board monitors the property for continued qualification for the special valuation per requirements of Chapter 84.26 RCW;
- P. Advise the city council generally on matters of city history and historic preservation.
- Q. The commission shall establish and adopt its own rules of procedure and shall select from among its membership a chairperson and such other officers as may be necessary to conduct the commission's business.