

Brett Kelter

From: Milwaukie Museum <milwaukiemuseum@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Brett Kelter
Cc: Steve Bennett; Milo Denham; Sarah Harris; Linda Carr; Siri Bernard; Greg Hemer; Mark Hurlburt; David Aschenbrenner
Subject: Testimony for July 25th 2023 Planning Commission
Attachments: We sent you safe versions of your files; MilwaukieDLCStatement_sfb.pdf

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

This Message originated outside your organization.

Please see attachment for Milwaukie Historical Society's official response to retiring the DLC.

Thanks

Greg Hemer

Communications Director

Milwaukie Historical Society



Milwaukie Historical Society

3737 SE Adams St. Milwaukie, OR 97222

www.milwaukiehistoricalsociety.com

milwaukiemuseum@gmail.com

Proud Member



Dear Planning Staff and Planning Commission,

Milwaukie Historical Society opposes the idea of retiring the Design and Landmarks Committee (DLC) in the City of Milwaukie. There are three major factors leading us to this decision. First is the apparent lack of due diligence taken to research and understand what the Landmarks portion of the Committee will accomplish for our City's economic and engagement possibilities. Second, retiring the DLC defies our city's Comprehensive Plan goals. Third, Milwaukie Historical Society has a solution for keeping the DLC active without staff time allowing the members to be active and engaged until their duties are needed by our developers, business owners, residents, or staff.

City's Economic and Engagement Possibilities:

The work of the Landmarks Commission can go beyond design reviews. These activities include:

1. Shaping and promoting appreciation and awareness of the history and historic fabric of the city;
2. Fostering and developing a preservation mindset in the community;
3. Providing guidance and support for those wishing to undertake preservation at the local level;
4. Providing support and resources for grant applicants;
5. Serving as a conduit between private entities and the city in coordinating preservation efforts;
6. Providing input to guide growth and development policy in the City;
7. Participating in consultation on federal and state projects in the City that may affect historic properties;
8. Providing comment and input on National Register nominations as they are proposed.

In addition, if the City of Milwaukie does pursue becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG), it would open up funding from State Historical Preservation Office (SHIPO) for administrative support, training, projects, and pass-through grants to people needing assistance with funding their own preservation or improvement projects. The City of Milwaukie needs to have a Landmarks Committee to be eligible to qualify for this designation.

If the city's concern is about the cost of maintaining the Committee, becoming a CLG would help solve that, as CLG's get grant support from the federal government through the SHIPO office in order to facilitate these things. The City of Milwaukie basically already does all the things a CLG does, except get the money for being one.

Milwaukie Historical Society urges, before making any decision of retirement, that the Planning Staff and Planning Commission first hear from Kuri Gill or Jason Allen of SHIPO in a public forum before proceeding toward a decision to retire the DLC. This is considered Due Diligence!

Comprehensive Plan

As you all know, our Comprehensive Plan includes input from residents, experts, and staff. In Goal 2 and Goal 11 the City of Milwaukie explicitly states many reasons for keeping the DLC intact. If you are true to the promise of using the Comprehensive Plan as the planning guiding document, then the DLC must remain as an entity. We list below the relevant criteria:

Preserving Milwaukie's history for future generations



Milwaukie Historical Society

3737 SE Adams St. Milwaukie, OR 97222

www.milwaukiehistoricalsociety.com

milwaukiemuseum@gmail.com



GOAL 2.1 - MILWAUKIE'S HERITAGE

Research, celebrate, document, and protect Milwaukie's unique and diverse historic, archaeological, and cultural heritage.

POLICY 2.1.1 Work with local residents, businesses, and organizations to document and preserve Milwaukie's diverse history.

POLICY 2.1.2 Recognize the Milwaukie area's indigenous cultures, people, and history, including the Clackamas Tribe, that existed prior to the establishment of the City and ensure that historic preservation and documentation programs are representative of all cultures and time periods in the area's history.

POLICY 2.1.3 Appropriately memorialize historic sites, objects, or structures through signs or plaques which convey the historic significance of a resource.

POLICY 2.1.4 Provide educational materials and information regarding preservation to property owners and other interested persons and assist property owners in applying for designation as a locally significant historic resource.

POLICY 2.1.5 Provide land use flexibility for properties with historic resources to encourage the restoration and maintenance of historic resources for both continuing uses and the adaptive reuse of properties.

POLICY 2.1.6 Pursue partnerships and private and public sources of funding for use by property owners in the renovation and maintenance of historic or cultural resources.

POLICY 2.1.7 Maintain an official inventory of Milwaukie's historic and cultural resources and regularly update the inventory as additional properties become eligible and are nominated for designation.

POLICY 2.1.8 Ensure that City processes for inventorying, altering, removing, or demolishing historic and cultural resources remain consistent with state and federal criteria as well as community priorities.

POLICY 2.1.9 Coordinate historic preservation activities with the Milwaukie Historical Society and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and follow all state and federal regulations for identifying and protecting archaeological resources.

POLICY 11.1.3 Develop strategies to help stabilize existing businesses and mitigate displacement in areas experiencing increased investment and redevelopment.

POLICY 11.1.7 Encourage the creation of community amenities such as green spaces and gathering places within commercial and employment areas.

POLICY 11.1.10 Make Downtown Milwaukie a regional destination with uses and amenities that capitalize on its proximity to the Willamette waterfront and multimodal transportation options.

POLICY 11.2.3 Help businesses flourish in Milwaukie, either on their current site or on sites that provide more opportunity for growth and expansion.

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Proud Member



Milwaukie Historical Society Solution for an Active DLC

As Planning Staff and Planning Commission are aware, Milwaukie Historical Society has begun the task of completing an updated Historic Home Inventory (HHI) as required by the Comprehensive Plan. This is a daunting task as most of our homes were built in the 1950's-1970's. The qualification for being a historic home is a structure 50 years or older. Our last inventory was in 1991, meaning most of the properties now need to be surveyed.

Milwaukie Historical Society could use DLC members for their expertise and knowledge in helping to conduct these surveys. This requires a series of meetings and training to ensure the project and analysis is correct and verifiable. We would ask our fellow allies, the DLC, to join us on a volunteer basis. We estimate that this project will take a year or more to accomplish.

The HHI project gives City of Milwaukie an opportunity to have the DLC meet on a regular basis, work towards a mission, and remain active until the City is willing to call upon them for their duties. We believe that this pursuit does not require a public meeting notice or staff guidance, but offers a solution and shows a commitment in supporting the DLC to be engaged and involved. If Planning Staff wishes, they could call a meeting to hear and learn about the DLC experience and progress on the HHI.

As the Planning Commission deliberates about whether to retire or maintain the Design and Landmarks Committee, please respect Milwaukie Historical Society's assessment of facts and consideration. Once again, we, as Milwaukie Historical Society, ask that Planning Commission does due diligence, considers the City of Milwaukie Comprehensive Plan, and accepts the solution that the Milwaukie Historical Society has offered. Without a DLC none of this can happen. We urge you to consider all of the evidence presented to you and determine that the DLC shall remain active.

Thank you,
Steve Bennett

Milwaukie Historical Society
President
milwaukiemuseum@gmail.com

Preserving Milwaukie's history for future generations

Brett Kolver

From: nicole <nicolezdeb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:45 PM
To: Brett Kolver
Subject: Landmark and Design Committee Preservation

This Message originated outside your organization.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concern about the proposed disbandment of the Landmark and Design Committee. As a longtime resident of Milwaukie, I have seen firsthand the importance of this committee in preserving our city's history and character.

The Landmark and Design Committee has been instrumental in protecting our city's historic buildings and neighborhoods. They have helped to ensure that our city's unique character is preserved for future generations. Without this committee, our city would be at risk of losing some of its most important landmarks and neighborhoods.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to disband the Landmark and Design Committee. This committee is essential to the preservation of our city's history and character. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Zdeb

Brett Kelter

From: mkhemer <mkhemer@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Brett Kelter
Subject: July 25th planning meeting

This Message originated outside your organization.

I agree with Milwsukie Historical Society letter.
Michelle Hemer

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Brett Kelter

From: Dave Tyler <dsailortyler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:16 PM
To: Brett Kelter
Subject: Design and landmarks committee.

This Message originated outside your organization.

I agree with Milwaukie Historical Society's position to keep the DLC in its current form. Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Tyler

Brett Kolver

From: Debby Patten <debby.patten@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 6:59 PM
To: Brett Kolver
Subject: DLC

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hi, I also disagree with the idea of retiring the DLC. This way, when they are needed, they can be there to help guide decisions.

Thank you,

Debby Patten

Sent from my iPhone

Brett Kelter

From: Shelley West <sandshell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 7:39 PM
To: Brett Kelter
Subject: DLC

This Message originated outside your organization.

I agree with the Milwaukie Historical Society's position. I believe it is important that the DLC is able to advise the Planning Commission on architectural and historical preservation/activities and designation of historical districts and landmarks.

Thank you,
Shelley West

Brett Kolver

From: Kelben Graf <kelbengraf@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 9:56 PM
To: Brett Kolver
Subject: Don't retire the DLC

This Message originated outside your organization.

I agree with Milwaukie Historical Society's position.

Brett Kolver

From: 2dasch@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:09 PM
To: Milwaukie Planning; Ann Ober; Lisa Batey
Cc: Greg Hemer; Scott Stauffer
Subject: Design and Landmarks Committee
Attachments: We sent you safe versions of your files; MilwaukieDLCStatement_sfb.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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This Message originated outside your organization.

As a long time resident of Milwaukie I agree with the position that the Milwaukie Historical Society / Milwaukie Museum has presented in the attachment below.

--

David Aschenbrenner
11505 SE Home Ave
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Brett Kelter

From: Lisa Bentley <lisabentley3@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:41 AM
To: Brett Kelter
Subject: Design and Landmarks Committee

This Message originated outside your organization.

As former member of the board for the Clackamas County Heritage Council and as someone who has spent many years working to save local history including testifying before Clackamas County's Historic Review Board, I hope the City of Milwaukie will continue to support the Design and Landmarks Committee. Removing the Committee from the city sponsorship sends a clear signal to citizens and the public at large saying the Milwaukie no long supports historic preservation of its landmarks and its history. The repercussions would echo for years to come and could result in the loss of important city landmarks and history.

I also think of the message the City of Milwaukie be sending to the Milwaukie Historical Society and the many volunteers who have dedicated hours/days/years of their lives to conserving Milwaukie's historic past, and to the city's young people about the importance of preserving the community's history. The Design and Landmarks Committee does not need to meet often to send an important message to the community it represents about the importance of honoring its social history, the citizens, and leaders from the past, and of remembering Milwaukie's economic development as well as honoring the civic organizations who have committed many hours to the betterment of Milwaukie.

In the coming years, as land for development grows ever more scarce, local landmarks and historic sites will be threatened with removal more than ever. Both for the symbol of what the Design and Landmarks Committee represents, and because its leadership will be needed to safeguard the cumulative record of the past in the city, I strongly urge the City of Milwaukie to retain its Design and Landmarks Committee.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M Bentley
4422 SE River Drive
Milwaukie, OR 97267
971.645.9294

Brett Kelter

From: BILL MCCRACKEN <ultrabill@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Brett Kelter
Subject: Design and Landmarks Committee

This Message originated outside your organization.

I agree with the Milwaukie Historical Society's position.

With Milwaukie's new Housing, Tree and Parking Codes this body is even more vital than ever. We have a legacy to protect that doesn't always make money for developers and the city. A dedicated body won't have to juggle other concerns.

Pam Husband

Brett Kelter

From: chris ortolano <cdortolano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Brett Kelter
Cc: milwaukiemuseum@gmail.com
Subject: City of Milwaukie Design and Landmarks Committee - public comment
Attachments: We sent you safe versions of your files; MilwaukieDLCStatement_sfb.pdf

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This Message originated outside your organization.

Dear Planning Staff and Planning Commission,

For the public record, I agree with the proposal presented by the Milwaukie Historical Society to continue the City of Milwaukie Design and Landmarks Committee.

In addition, I support a public meeting with SHIPO to further explore additional funding opportunities to help offset staff overhead costs during the next two years while some planning staff are engaged in an extensive water quality review.

Finally, as a historic homeowner for over 25 years, I support the continued work of the Milwaukie Historic Society to update the inventory of historic houses in collaboration with the DLC over this two year period.

Please see additional comments from the Milwaukie Historic Society below.

Best Regards,

Chris Ortolano
11088 SE 40th Ave
Milwaukie, OR 97222

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Milwaukie Museum** <milwaukiemuseum@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 20, 2023, 3:32 PM
Subject: Save City of Milwaukie Design and Landmarks Committee
To:

Design and Landmarks Committee

The Design and Landmarks Committee (DLC) is a 5-member group established to advise the Planning Commission on urban design, architectural, and historic preservation activities including but not limited to design review of development proposals in the downtown, education and outreach, designation of historic districts and landmarks, and historic and cultural resources inventories.

Planning Staff's reason for retirement

With the low volume of application review, the recent improvements to the DDR (Downtown Design Review) code, the Commission's capacity to review these types of applications, and the lack of an immediate long range project for the DLC, staff has discussed retiring the DLC.....view full packet https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/sites/default/files/7.25_pc_packet.pdf

Milwaukie Historical Society believes

There are three major factors leading us to this decision. First is the apparent lack of due diligence taken to research and understand what the Landmarks portion of the Committee will accomplish for our City's economic and engagement possibilities. Second, retiring the DLC defies our city's Comprehensive Plan goals. Third, Milwaukie Historical Society has a solution for keeping the DLC active without staff time allowing the members to be active and engaged until their duties are needed by our developers, business owners, residents, or staff. Attached is our full letter to the Planning Commission.

Please email Planning Staff to oppose retiring the DLC or join us at the Planning Commision Meeting to testify!!!!!!

Thank you in advance,

Greg Hemer

Communications Director

Milwaukie Historical Society

Brett Kelter

From: Leesa Gratreak <leesa.gratreak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Brett Kelter
Cc: milwaukiemuseum@gmail.com
Subject: Save City of Milwaukie Design and Landmarks Committee

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hello,

I am an architectural historian and historic preservation professional in Milwaukie and strongly support Milwaukie Historical Societies position to retain the Design and Landmarks Committee (DLC).

I agree with the Society's position that disbanding the DLC will limit access to grant funding and community support for understanding and protecting Milwaukie's heritage and valuable historic properties. Retiring the DLC is a short-range action with long-range consequences. Any city looking to effectively grow and manage change needs such a committee to do so in a cohesive and effective manner. Milwaukie is known for its charm, beauty, and history, and sustaining the DLC will show the community that the City is committed to retaining those valuable qualities that increase and sustain property values and increase quality of life for those interested in moving to Milwaukie.

Please reconsider this rash action and save the DLC!

Best Regards,

Leesa Gratreak, MS Historic Preservation

Brett Kolver

From: Bernie Stout <usabs1@nethere.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:16 PM
To: Brett Kolver
Subject: retain Design and Landmarks Committee (DLC).

This Message originated outside your organization.

Monday, July 24, 2023

Dear Brett Kolver,

. I agree with Milwaukie Historical Society's position, please **retain** Design and Landmarks Committee (DLC).

Thank you,

Bernie Stout