



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Peter Huffman, Planning and Development Services
Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Placing the Titlow Lodge/Hotel Hesperides on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places – April 3, 2018
DATE: March 9, 2018

SUMMARY:

A Resolution placing the following property on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places:

- Titlow Lodge/Hotel Hesperides (8425 6th Avenue)

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

State and briefly explain which strategic policy priority is best aligned to this action. Please remove the statements below you are not directly addressing.

- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

BACKGROUND:

The Titlow Lodge was nominated to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places by the property owner, Metro Parks Tacoma. Designed by Tacoma architect Frederick Heath, the Swiss Chalet-style building known as Titlow Lodge was originally built in 1911 and named Hotel Hesperides by owner Aaron Titlow. Originally built as a hotel, the building was renamed Titlow Loedge when it was acquired by the Metropolitan Park Board in 1928. It gained its current appearance following a 1938 Works Progress Administration remodel.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission recommends designation of the Titlow Lodge as a City Landmark for its connection to preeminent Tacoma architect Frederick Heath and Tacoma attorney Aaron Titlow, as well as for its presence as a unique and established visual feature of the City. The Landmarks Preservation Commission reviewed the nomination at a public meeting on January 10, 2018 and received public comment at a public hearing on February 14, 2018.

ISSUE:

By designating the Titlow Lodge as a City Landmark, the building will be protected for future generations.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the building is not added to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, future changes to the structure that negatively alter architectural character, including demolition, could take place without the review of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, provided that all land use and building code requirements were met.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff concurs with the recommendation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the above property as a City Landmark, which will help to preserve this important structure for future generations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.