



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, Planning and Development Services  
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution designating the Point Defiance Lodge as a City Landmark and placing said property on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places – June 27, 2017  
**DATE:** June 12, 2017

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**SUMMARY:**

This memorandum provides background information on a request for a Council Resolution to place the following property on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places:

- Point Defiance Lodge (5717 North Roberts Garden Road)

**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 Point Defiance Lodge was nominated to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places by the property owner, Metro Parks Tacoma. The Point Defiance Lodge was built in 1898. The building was designed by architect Charles A. Darmer and built by Albert Miller; it is the only original park structure still in existence.

The Point Defiance Lodge is of primary historical significance to Tacoma. The lodge was built as a residence for Ebenezer Rhys Roberts, the landscape gardener hired to work with landscape architect Edward Otto Schwagerl to develop Point Defiance into a park. The building is significant for its prominence in and association with the development of Point Defiance Park and as the work of architect Charles A. Darmer. The style is Queen Anne design, with Swiss Chalet elements. In 1980, the lodge was converted from a private residence to a rental facility. In 2012 it became a visitor center. The building is also currently under consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission considered the nomination on February 22, 2017 and conducted a public hearing to receive comment on March 22, 2017. Following the hearing, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend designation of the Point Defiance Lodge. The Landmarks Preservation Commission recommendation includes the interior entryway, sitting room, and parlor.

**ISSUE:**

By designating the Point Defiance 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.