



**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer;  
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution designating Point Defiance Streetcar Station as a City Landmark and placing  
said property on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places – January 13, 2015  
**DATE:** November 24, 2014

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**SUMMARY:**

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

- Point Defiance Streetcar Station (5801 Trolley Lane)

On October 22, 2014, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to recommend inclusion of the above properties on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, based upon written and oral comments received and the eligibility criteria listed in Tacoma Municipal Code 13.07.040.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.

By designating this property as a City Landmark, the City is promoting the preservation of our civic identity and encouraging sustainable development through the reuse of existing structures.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Point Defiance Streetcar Station was nominated by Metro Parks Tacoma, the owner and operator of the building. Designed by Tacoma architect Luther Twichell and constructed in 1914, the streetcar station is significant for its association with historic trends in mass transit in the early twentieth century, as an example of eclectic Asian-influenced Arts and Crafts design, and as an example of a surviving structure from the 1911 master plan for the Point Defiance Park. Due to its unique physical characteristics and location, it is an established and familiar landmark within Point Defiance Park.

The building was severely damaged in a 2011 arson fire, and since that time, it has been painstakingly restored in conformance with historic preservation standards under the guidance of the Historic and Cultural Resources Manager for Metro Parks, in consultation with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the Tacoma Historic Preservation Officer. The building was also recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission considered this nomination at its meeting of September 24, 2014, and held a Public Hearing on October 22.

**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 discretionary 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.