



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 20, 2016

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick Foran, Director, 452-5377

Subject: Status Report on the Burrows Cabin Relocation

Summary

The City Council approved \$150,000 in the mid-biennial budget ordinance to relocate the historic Burrows Cabin from its current location along 112th Avenue NE in advance of a redevelopment that would likely demolish the building. The Parks Department staff has worked with the property owner and the Eastside Heritage Center (EHC) to investigate possible relocation sites and expects to begin the process of relocating the cabin to Chism Beach Park later this summer.

Background

The Burrows Cabin is believed to be the oldest structure in Bellevue. Albert Burrows, a Civil War veteran, established a soldier's homestead on the shores of Lake Washington in 1882 at the site now known as Burrow's Landing. He was a carpenter by trade and constructed this cabin in 1883. The cabin has been moved twice in its history. First in the 1930's it was moved from the Burrow's Landing to the corner of NE 8th Street and Bellevue Way, where it served as a real estate office. In 1946, it was moved to its current location on 112th Avenue NE, where it has been continuously used as a residence.

The property has now been sold for redevelopment. While the City has policies that support historic preservation, there are no regulations or incentives to guarantee preservation of the structure, so the only way to safeguard the cabin's future is to relocate it to another site. In addition to the City's funds, the property owner has agreed to contribute \$10,000 to preserve the cabin.

Site Selection

In addition to their main goal of preserving the Cabin, EHC's interests were twofold: 1) relocate it to a historically relevant site; and 2) identify a location that allows for future public use. We initially considered Robinswood Park as part of collection of historic structures that includes the two Hans Miller Cabins, the Robinswood House and Barn. However, because the Burrows Cabin has always been located in west Bellevue, EHC did not support that option and urged us to limit our investigation to west Bellevue parks. We looked for sites with good visibility, available parking, ease and cost of relocation, avoided conflicts with other park uses, and offered potential public use. West side parks studied included 2 locations each at McCormick and Chism; Goddard, Wildwood, Killarney Glen, Zumdieck, and Chapin. We quickly narrowed these options to Zumdieck, one McCormick location and both Chism sites. We visited each site with Heather Trescases from EHC.

After staff evaluation and consultation with EHC, we are proceeding to relocate the cabin to upper Chism and currently seeking prices. The upper site's advantages included ample parking, adequate visibility, proximity to the original location and an identified public use as an amenity to the established picnic site. We believe the cost, including required site preparation and restoration, will approach the \$150,000 provided for this project. Over 400 flyers (attached) were distributed to the neighborhood, and it has been posted on NextDoor. To-date we have received several positive responses.

Next Steps

The actual move is expected to take place in late July or August. Once we determine relocation costs, will be able to determine if funds will remain for additional improvements needed to ready the cabin for public use, such as window and door treatment, front steps and entry pathway, interior improvements, an interpretive plaque, and electrical power.

Attachment