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To:

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Date: 05/23/2024 3:20 PM PDT

Subject: Joint Meeting May 30 Regarding Preserving the Davis Meeker Oak Tree's Legacy

Dear Members of the Historic Preservation Commission, Tree Board, and Parks & Recreation Commission,

We look forward to meeting with you on May 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers to kick off a collaborative community engagement process to determine the best ways to honor and memorialize the Davis Meeker Garry Oak tree.

As you may be aware, a very difficult administrative decision was made to remove the Davis Meeker Garry Oak tree. This tree has been a fixture in the community for an estimated 400+ years. An analysis conducted by a team of ISA Certified Arborists found significant decay in several areas of the tree, including in the mainstem and the large scaffold branches, which makes future failures likely. The City of Tumwater has determined that the risk the Davis Meeker Garry Oak Tree poses to people and property requires the tree to be removed. More information about the tree can be found on the [City's website](#).

This is a sad time for our community, and the City is committed to commemorating its environmental, cultural, and historical significance. There are several possible ways to make sure the legacy of the tree continues for future generations. City staff and others collected acorns from the Davis Meeker oak tree last fall that are being grown with the intent to plant these progenies in the future. In the coming decades, these acorns will grow into habitat providing trees and/or groves. Plans are also underway to reclaim as much wood as possible from the tree to be used to make items that would preserve the memory of the tree, such as art, bowls, or plaques. Additionally, the Davis Meeker Oak tree could be memorialized with a plaque or historical marker at its current site. We are seeking your assistance in both providing a platform for the community to provide their input into these topics, and in adding your specific expertise and suggestions for providing a meaningful commemoration of the tree.

In advance of the May 30 meeting, you will be provided a draft survey and a draft community engagement plan. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about the survey and plan as we explore how to memorialize the Davis Meeker Oak tree with the community. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Debbie Sullivan, Mayor
City of Tumwater

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