

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Council Resolution No. 286 Supporting the Shoreline Historical Museum Remaining in the Ronald School Building
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office
PRESENTED BY:	Eric Bratton, Management Analyst, City Manager's Office

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT

The Shoreline School District (School District) is currently in the planning process to replace Shorewood High School with a new facility on the same campus as the current facility. Located in the northeast corner of the Shorewood High School campus is the historic Ronald School, which has been the home of the Shoreline Historical Museum (Museum) since 1976. While the Ronald School building has been included in all of the preliminary designs for the new high school building, it is unclear if the function of the Museum has been included in those designs. The City wants to strongly encourage the School District to include the Museum and its function in the designs for Shorewood High School and allow the Museum to continue operating in its current location now and into the future.

BACKGROUND

Having been first established in 1906, the Ronald School is the oldest public building in Shoreline. The community built the existing brick schoolhouse and the bell tower in 1912 and built an addition in 1926. The School District utilized the building as a school until 1971. After closing the building as a school, the School District, together with individuals from the community and the original Shoreline Historical Society, created a community museum in the building in 1976 as part of a Bicentennial Project. The Museum has continued to operate at that location ever since.

In 1989, the School District deeded the Ronald School building to the Museum for the continued use as a museum. That same year, the Ronald School building achieved King County Community Landmark status. The King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission designated it as an official Shoreline Landmark in 2008, giving it certain legal protections. Contained within the deed to the Museum from the School District is a clause that allows the School District to take back the Ronald School building if it needs it for a school use.

The School District is undergoing much needed planning for the replacement and modernization of Shorewood High School. The School District is still in the planning phase and no decisions have been made on the design of the new building or whether it will include the Museum remaining at its current location. However, the Council has expressed its strong desire to see the Museum remain in its current location and be incorporated into the design of the new Shorewood High School campus.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 286 supporting the Shoreline Historical Museum remaining in the Ronald School Building.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney ____

Attachment:
Resolution No. 286

RESOLUTION NO. 286

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, SUPPORTING THE SHORELINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM REMAINING IN THE RONALD SCHOOL BUILDING.

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Historical Museum preserves, records and interprets the history of the Shoreline area and its relationship to the Northwest, and houses several permanent and many temporary exhibits providing excellent educational opportunities for all citizens to learn about the area's past, and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Historical Museum has been located at the historic Ronald School since 1976, and

WHEREAS, the Ronald School is the oldest public building in the area, having been established in 1906, and was named after Judge James T. Ronald, a prominent area attorney, Mayor of Seattle in 1892 and 1893, and King County Superior Court Judge from 1909 to 1949, and

WHEREAS, the current brick schoolhouse and bell tower were built in 1912, and continued to be used as a school until 1971, and

WHEREAS, after the closure of the building as a school, the Shoreline School District, together with individuals from the community and the original Shoreline Historical Society, created a community museum in the facility in 1976 as part of a Bicentennial Project, and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline School District deeded the Ronald School building to the Shoreline Historical Museum in 1989 for the Community to use as a museum, and

WHEREAS, the Ronald School building achieved King County Community Landmark status in 1989 and was designated as an official Shoreline Landmark in 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline School District is undergoing much needed planning for the replacement and modernization of both Shorecrest and Shorewood High School buildings to create safe and secure environments focused on preparing the community's youth for the future, and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports both the mission and current location of the Shoreline Historical Museum and the Shoreline School District's current planning efforts to replace and modernize the Shorecrest and Shorewood High School buildings, and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Historical Museum has been explored by more than 25,000 schoolchildren since its inception and it is visited and used as a community meeting place by 10,000 people a year, and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is in the best interest of the community to keep the Shoreline Historical Museum housed in the historic Ronald School, and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes there is an opportunity for the Shoreline Historical Museum to be a valuable resource to the Shoreline School District at its current location where it could incorporate the Museum's exhibits and programs into school curriculum.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Shoreline hereby expresses its support for the continued location and operation of the Shoreline Historical Museum at the historic Ronald School, and respectfully urges that the Shoreline School District include the continuation of the Shoreline Historical Museum at its current location in the School District's replacement and modernization plans for Shorewood High School.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 26, 2009.

Cindy Ryu, Mayor

ATTEST:

Scott Passey, City Clerk