

## Soppe, Tom

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**From:** Charles Awalt [chasawalt@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2012 3:00 PM  
**To:** Soppe, Tom; Sonnen, John; Javoronok, Sara  
**Cc:** Julie Osborne; Willamette Neighborhood  
**Subject:** Please read this into the record at the Planning Commission hearing for Willamette Grade School tonight, April 2.

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To the Planning Commission.  
Concerning Willamette Grade School

I am expressing my concern that the Willamette Grade School permit process has reached the Planning Commission without review by the State Historic Preservation Office to determine its historic significance and to review the recommended changes. This step in the process is mandated by Oregon State Statute 358.653 and requires review by the State Historic preservation office. This is an especially important step in the process since West Linn has never inventoried its publicly owned buildings or the neighborhood surrounding the Historic District.

Omitting this step has left the historic status of this building in question for the purposes of this hearing. In addition, the State's input has been missing from the material available for the public to review, and any public presentation made leading up to the hearing.

A review by the state may also change the process the city used while evaluating the plans. The changes weren't processed as changes to an historic property. How would the city have processed this permit if the State had determined the need to proceed with a look to historic sensitivity? What involvement would the Historic Review Board have had?

The Willamette Grade School defines the eastern boundary of our National Register Historic District. This has been a school site from the first days of the town of Willamette Falls when a commanding school building was built and helped market it as a modern community. The present building is the third to grace the site, and the first to survive a major fire. All three schools met the highest architectural standards of the day. With the exception of the gym that was destroyed in the last fire the original 1950 building is mostly intact. This proposal is to build a utility structure in the front grounds of the school.

I ask that the Planning Commission not move forward on this application for failure to comply with ORS358.653 and the lack of a State Historic Preservation Office report as part of the public presentation leading up to the hearing.

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