

Design Review Board

The City of Snohomish's Design Review Board (DRB) is charged with protecting the city's historic structures and to encourage quality design and site planning. Every decision the Board makes is focused on preserving and protecting Snohomish's historic character.

The DRB is a five-member advisory board to the Planning Director. They evaluate development proposals in the Historic District for compliance with the City's Historic District Design Standards which were recently updated after a 6-year process.

The Board also reviews development applications for projects outside of the Historic District subject to the city's other design standards.

At its meetings, the DRB reviews projects that are required to meet specified design standards. Applicants are encouraged to attend the meetings to advocate for their design and to respond to Board questions. After considering the proposal and listening to the applicant, staff, and public comments, the Board makes a recommendation to the Planning Director to approve, approve with conditions or recommendations, or deny the proposal. The Planning Director then takes the recommendation into consideration before determining if the proposal meets all relevant design standards.

Members of the DRB are appointed by the Mayor with confirmation by the City Council. They do not necessarily have to be residents of the city. Snohomish Municipal Code states the Mayor shall appoint people who are knowledgeable about design and aesthetic judgment. Desired qualifications for Board members include having expertise in architecture, history, building trades, landscape architecture, graphic/interior/industrial design, or land development.

The DRB meets on the second Wednesday of every month. Meetings, which are open to the public, start at 6:00 p.m. and are held at City Hall, 116 Union Ave.