

AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, August 11, 2020
6:30 p.m.



Webex Virtual Meeting
Aurora, CO

Present: Chair Gordon Tucker, Vice Chair Elizabeth Hamilton, Michael Lockwood, Courtney Morehouse, Barbara Henk, Chris Geddes, Megan Berens, Michael Ackman, and Charlie Peters

Excused: Secretary Lynne Evans

Staff: Drake Brownfield, Historic Preservation Specialist

Guests: Thomas Terpening III

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Gordon Tucker called the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC or Commission) meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Commissioner Geddes had corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Henk asked for her last name to be corrected. The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on June 9, 2020 were approved as amended via motion by Commissioner Geddes, second by Commissioner Peters.

II. Staff Report

Historic Preservation (HP) Specialist Drake Brownfield gave his report to the Commission.

Resignation: Amy Bailey resigned her position on the HPC. A drawing of the Victory Grange by Commissioner Henk will be a thank you/going away gift to Amy for 15+ years of service.

Section 106 reviews: No historic properties affected.

Landmark Brochures: Landmark brochures, which include the newest landmarks, have been printed. Another update will occur soon due to the Mission Viejo Cultural Heritage Site designation and the pending Smith-Cox House local landmark application.

Royal Villa Cottage Court HABS Level II Assessment: The developer asked the HPC to wait until November, but Drake is going to clarify that the HPC and staff would like access as soon as possible to document the complex before it is demolished. Drake will inform the HPC when Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documentation can begin.

Geo-Caching: This very popular program is back and set up at Bicentennial Art Center.

Loafing Shed: Final payment from the State Historical Fund (SHF) was approved. No Certificate of Occupancy is required. While some Americans for Disability Act (ADA) concrete work was completed on the north side of the building, there is still one more small sidewalk area needing attention. HP Specialist Drake Brownfield may ask HPC to cover the costs of this final

section. Also, the corral gates need replacement. A business from the eastern plains has provided an estimate of approximately \$5000 to replace the gates.

Coal Creek School: A few corrections are still awaiting completion. Fire inspection passed. Heat detectors are installed.

Cultural Heritage Site Sign: Mission Viejo received their CHS sign and it is installed on the exterior of the Mission Viejo Library. A celebration of this designation will be planned when it is safe to do so.

DAR/CAR Work Day: August 1, 2020 saw a group of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)/Children of the American Revolution (CAR) members perform a variety of clean-up projects at Coal Creek School and the Delaney Farm Historic District (DFHD).

Firewood Storage Shed (DFHD): HP Specialist Drake Brownfield showed pictures of an outbuilding on the Delaney Farm property. It is not mentioned in the nomination form, so its original use is unclear. HP Assistant Jacob McDonald is performing research on this structure. Options under consideration include relocation, renovation, demolition, or appropriation of the lumber for signage on the property.

Budget: No recent budget expenditures. The current budget is \$5,160.05.

III. Old Business

1557 Dallas Landmark Nomination: Review by the Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions and Citizen Groups Sub-committee (PRCTLBCCG) was unanimous and now the local landmark nomination form will go before City Council for official Local Landmark designation on Monday, August 17, 2020.

Red Cross Project: Design Workshop went to bid for project and the bids came in at twice the amount expected. Interpretive signage was not covered, which is unacceptable to the HPC, a point made to Design Workshop at the May HPC meeting. They will go back to review project and rebid as they know that interpretive signage is a crucial component of the project.

Lowry Building 880 Interpretive Signage: Nothing to report. Commissioner Geddes will continue to work on writing the material for signage.

Coal Creek COA: See earlier staff report.

Delaney Farm Loafing Shed: Cost of the last section of concrete work is estimated at about \$1,000. HP Specialist Drake Brownfield may come with an action item at the September HPC meeting to request funds and finish this project.

Oral History Project: No update. Museum has equipment to do this even during COVID, so let Drake know if there are any people to interview.

KOA Fountain Project: Physical work is complete. Fountain looks fantastic. HPC would like to send a note of thanks to CDOT for a project well done. Commissioner Ackman asked if there was a way to put up signage about the KOA Building and fountain as there is an RTD bus stop in front of the fountain along East Colfax Avenue. HP Specialist Drake Brownfield will check and see if CDOT would be interested in partnering on the project.

Fire Station #5 Local Landmark Nomination: Meetings with the Fire Chief, the City, and the Museum staff to date have been positive. Idea is to use the fire station as a Union Hall and Fire Museum. Commissioner Ackman is facilitating meetings and has a draft of a local landmark

nomination form to be submitted in early 2021 when the building is officially 50 years old. A couple of upcoming meetings with the Fire Chief are scheduled.

Fox Theater SHF grant: Project is under contract with SHF. There is 3 years to complete grant projects now.

Aurora Newspaper Digitization Project: Nothing new to report. HPC may have some money to spend its budget out by the end of the year. The Newspaper Digitization project can always use a donation to continue the progress.

HABS Assessment for Royal Villa Motor Court at Peoria & Colfax: See earlier staff report. Commissioner Ackman shared pictures of the Sunset Camp in Evanston, Wyoming. Located along the Lincoln Highway/U.S. 30, the small town is restoring this motor court that looks strikingly similar to the Royal Villa Motor Courts slated for demolition here.

Subcommittees Reports: Events

Sub-ommittee did not meet but had an email discussion about opportunities to stage events with COVID restrictions. Commissioner Morehouse shared ideas that include a monthly series highlighting a different local landmark each month; helping parents with homeschooling by providing additional materials and information about historic preservation/ local landmarks/Aurora life. Commissioner Berens had an idea about creating a greeting card in order to send a note to each local landmark owner. Commissioner Henk has created some coloring pages featuring local landmarks and would be able to create more of these for possible use as greeting cards.

Report on Ward Meetings: None attended.

Site Plan Reports: Original Aurora 1 & 2 - Commissioners Lockwood & Ackman

V. New Business:

Commissioner Opening: With Amy Bailey departing the HPC, Chair Tucker, Vice Chair Hamilton, and HP Specialist Brownfield interviewed Thomas Terpening III for the opening prior to the HPC meeting. Mr. Terpening will be recommended for appointment by the City Council.

Commissioner Reappointments: Commissioners Peters and Ackman were recommended for reappointment to the HPC by the City Council.

Survey Work: Commissioner Geddes suggested the HPC look into purchase of two-four computer tablets and storage to facilitate survey work after a grant to Historic Denver for custom made software will be shared with anyone interested in using the software. HPC needs to spend its budget by year end and this would allow Aurora to start tackling survey work that is long overdue. Commissioner Geddes will report back on costs to the HPC at the next meeting.

Items for the September 8, 2020 meeting will include:

- Update on 1557 Dallas Street local landmark status
- Update on Red Cross Project

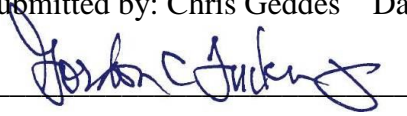
- Update on Lowry Building 880 interpretive signage
- Update on the Coal Creek COA
- Update on the Loafing Shed concrete work
- Update on Oral History
- Update KOA project
- Update on Fire Station #5 (possibly will occur under Designation Subcommittee update)
- Update on the Fox Grant
- Update on the Aurora Newspaper Digitization Project
- Update on the Royal Villa Motor Court HABS Assessment
- Update on Associated Costs for Survey Software
- Subcommittees reports: Advocacy and Designation
- Site Plan report: Commissioner Peters
- Report on Wards meetings

V. Adjournment:

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Chris Geddes Date: August 17, 2020

Approved by:
(as amended)



Date: September 8, 2020