

AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.



Library
Aurora History
Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO

Present: Chair Elizabeth Hamilton, Vice Chair Mike Ackman, Secretary Lynne Evans, Gordon Tucker, Lynda Heckendorn, Charlie Peters, Todd McMahon,

Absent: Barbara Henk, Emma Bertrand

Staff: Scott Williams, Katie Leeper

Guests: Laura MacDonald, Prospective HPC Commissioner; Jeanette, Elizabeth, and Catherine Black, and Lawyer, Peter Morales; Mr. Tom Leskiw (via Zoom)

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Elizabeth Hamilton called the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC or Commission) meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on January 10, 2023, were approved as amended.

Commissioner Tucker moved to suspend the regular HPC meeting for a public hearing. Commissioner McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The regular HPC meeting was suspended at 6:06 p.m.

II. Public Hearing –Morrison Nature Center – Naming of New Exploration/Play Area in honor of Mr. Richard Gary Black, Jr. located at the Star K Ranch at 16002 E. Smith Rd. Aurora, CO 80011.

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the resolution to name the New Exploration/Play Area in honor of Mr. Richard Gary Black, Jr. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed by voice vote.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

The Regular February 14, 2023, HPC meeting resumed at 6:24 p.m. via motion.

III. Staff Report

Museum Director Scott Williams gave the staff report.

Section 106 reviews: No historic properties affected.

Compliance: No items to report

Museum Programs: The HPC was given an overview of the current programs offered by the Aurora History Museum. The Morning at the Museum program Wednesdays at 10:30 am is quite popular. Home school student day at the Museum is also popular.

Historic Preservation Specialist Position: The position is being reposted.

High Line Canal: A canal survey has already been done. Can we designate the High Line Canal as a Cultural Heritage Site? Is the area by Lyn Knoll School the location of the Thunder Tree discussed in the R. Pyle Book? A fundraiser for High Line Canal signage was discussed.

Motion: Commissioner Tucker moved that a portion of the High Line Canal, specifically the area around Lyn Knoll School be designated as a Cultural Heritage Site Signage could be located there.

Commissioner Peters seconded the motion, and it passed by voice vote. Signage was installed by PROs in November at a different location along the canal north of I-70.

IV. Old Business

Fox Theatre SHF Grant: A new project manager has been selected. The city has solicited design proposals.

Senac Site (5AH.380): The Landmark Nomination will be presented to a study session of the city council on March 6.

Budget: \$6,600.00 is in the budget.

Lowry Building 880 Interpretive Signage: No update.

Pre-Contact Book Project: No Update

Phone Booths for Oral History: No Update

Elizabeth Johnson Award:

Motion: Commissioner Evans moved that we award the Elizabeth Johnson Award to Dave Heflin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackman and passed by voice vote. We could award it at 5:30 before the March 14 HPC meeting.

Fitzsimons Building 500 & Chapel Landmark Nominations: No update.

Melvin School and Melvin Lewis Cemetery: Scott is still trying to contact the management company for the cemetery. A structural planning grant is being planned for Melvin School. Scott will follow up with Cherry Creek Schools to see if the 2023 goals for Melvin School will happen.

Fitzsimons Golf Course Lightning Structures: Discussions in process.

Mission Viejo: The Mission Viejo HOA is supportive of the project to landmark the area.

Dam East & West: Cultural Heritage application is in process.

Colorado Freedom Memorial:

Motion: Commissioner Ackman moved that the Colorado Freedom Memorial be designated a Cultural Heritage Site. Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion, and it passed by a voice vote.

Ward Meetings: No update

Site Plan Report: Commissioner Tucker - Lowry 880- building is in good shape. It could use some paint in places and some windowsills are rotting in spots. Bicentennial Art Center-building has some paint flaking and the dumpster enclosures are beat up.

V. New Business

Colfax Landmark Proposal: A joint study session between Aurora and Lakewood's HPC to discuss the Colfax Corridor has been proposed. April 11 is one possible date or July might be a good time as well.

Jamaica School: Scott will contact APS. Since the school is on the National Register of Historic Places it is technically a city landmark as well.

Colfax: HPC should tour some locations on Colfax such as the Hollywood Theatre

Items for March 14, 2023, meeting will include:

- Update on Lowry Building 880 Interpretive Signage
- Update on Fox Signage SHF Grant
- Update on Precontact Book Project
- Update on Senac Site (5AH.380) Landmark Nomination
- Oral History Update & Demo of Phone Booths
- Chapel and Fitzsimons Building 500 Landmark Nominations
- Update on Melvin School and Melvin Lewis Cemetery
- Mission Viejo Historic District
- Jamacia School National Registry
- Highline Canal Signage

- Discussion on Dam East & West as Possible Cultural Heritage Site Designation
- Discussion on Lightning Shelters on Fitzsimons Golf Course Relocation
- Discussion on Colorado Freedom Memorial as Possible Cultural Heritage Site
- Discussion of Possible Landmark Nominations Proposed from Colfax Trip
- Report on Ward Meetings
- Site Plan Report: Commissioner Ackman - Fitzsimons
- Report on Wards Meetings
- Snacks – Elizabeth Johnson

VI. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by: Lynne Evans Date: March 1, 2023

Approved by:  Date: 3-14-23

