

**AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 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, Lynda Heckendorn, Charlie Peters, Todd McMahon, Emma Bertrand

**Excused:** Barbara Henk, Gordon Tucker,

**Staff:** Scott Williams, Katie Leeper

**Guests:** Laura MacDonald

**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 February 14, 2023, were approved as distributed via motion.

**II. Staff Report**

Museum Director Scott Williams gave the staff report.

**Section 106 reviews:** No historic properties affected. The Elevate Project is a 70-million-dollar project-proposed demolition.

**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:** There were 17 applicants for the position. Interviews will be held the last week of March and the beginning of April.

**Historic Preservation Assistant:** Katie Leeper has taken a full-time position in Wyoming and will be leaving the last week of March.

**HPC Annual Report:** The report is ready to submit. The Highline Canal designation as a Cultural Heritage Site and signage will be added as a goal for 2023.

**Centennial House:** A Historic Structure Assessment Grant will be submitted next week. The assessment will be the basis for future improvements.

**Windler:** Aja Tibbs from the Planning Department is providing information to the development firm and checking for possible historic preservation concerns.

**III. Old Business**

**Fox Theatre SHF Grant:** A grant extension has been filed. Haven Cassidy is the new Project Manager.

**Senac Site (5AH.380):** The Landmark Nomination will be presented to a study session of the city council on April 17, 2023

**Lowry Building 880 Interpretive Signage:** No update.

**Pre-Contact Book Project:** The project has been started. A draft will be sent out for review soon.

**Phone Booths for Oral History:** No Update

**Elizabeth Johnson Award:** The award will be presented to Dave Heflin at the April 11 HPC meeting.

**A motion was made by Commissioner McMahon to spend up to \$50 for a cake for the Elizabeth Johnson award presentation.** The motion was seconded by commissioner Peters. Commissioner Evans will order the cake.

**Highline Canal:** Cultural Heritage Site designation is on hold until the city approves. The Highline Canal Conservancy installed one sign and another sign is proposed for 2023.

**Fitzsimons Building 500 & Chapel Landmark Nominations:** No update.

**Melvin School and Melvin Lewis Cemetery:** Scott is still trying to contact Sperry Commercial Properties 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:** Spring Hill Golf Course will take the Lightening Structure, but they won't fund the move or installation of the structure.

**Mission Viejo: Motion-**Commissioner McMahon moved that the HPC spend \$150 to join the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) to assist us with modifying our HP Ordinance concerning the designation of Historic Districts in Aurora including a free training/workshop from Abigail Christman, Senior City Planner in Landmark Preservation at the City and County of Denver. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it pass by voice vote.

**Dam East & West:** The Cultural Heritage Designation is on hold until after a survey is performed.

**Colorado Freedom Memorial:** The designation of the CFM as a Cultural Heritage Site is approved.

**Ward Meetings:** No update

**Site Plan Report:** Commissioner Ackman reported on Fitzsimons. The Guardhouses, Waterfowl Preserve, General's Park, and Beehive Memorial were in good Shape. The War Mother's House is in poor condition.

#### IV. 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 at 7:00 pm. The Regular HPC meeting will be abbreviated that evening to allow time for the meeting with the Lakewood group.

**Jamaica School:** Museum Director, Scott Williams reached out to Josh Hensley from Aurora Public Schools. They will be talking on March 16.

**Interview:** Commissioners Hamilton and Ackman interviewed Laura McDonald. **Motion:** Commissioner Peters moved that we accept Laura McDonald and recommend her for appointment to the HPC. Commissioner Ackman seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.

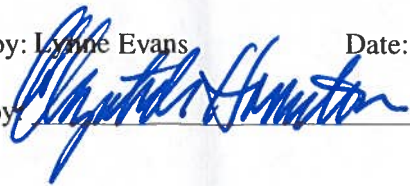
Items for April 11, 2023, meeting will include:

- 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 Lightning Shelters on Fitzsimons Golf Course Relocation

**V. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Lynne Evans Date: March 30, 2023

Approved by:  Date: 4-11-23

