

**AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

**6:0 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, Emma Bertrand, Laura MacDonald

**Excused:** Barbara Henk

**Staff:** Scott Williams

**I. Call to Order**

A quorum being present, Chair Elizabeth Hamilton called the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC or Commission) meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on April 11, 2023, were approved as amended via motion.

**II. Staff Report**

Museum Director Scott Williams gave the staff report.

**Section 106 reviews:** Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is planning improvements to the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Havana Street/and Del Mar Parkway. Aurora Chase Chapel, built in 1966 is eligible as a city landmark, as is Havana Park. The construction could adversely affect the Chase Chapel.

**Compliance:** No items to report.

**New HPC Commissioner:** Laura MacDonald was officially appointed to the HPC Commission on April 24, 2023.

**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:** In-person interviews are scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Jamaica School:** Museum Director, Scott Williams has spoken with Josh Hensley, Chief Operating Officer of the Aurora Public Schools. Mr. Hensley sees no problem with making Jamaica School a city landmark. A landmarking proposal will be presented to the Aurora Public Schools Board Meeting. The date and time will be announced.

**Centennial House:** Bryan Neil, the North Facilities Manager, will have his team do the bathroom remodel. Total cost is estimated at \$1,899. Plumbing will be \$649. Carpentry will cost \$1,250. The city will be asked to pay the cost first. If they cannot a motion was passed by the HPC.

**Motion:** Commissioner Peters motioned that the HPC pay the cost of the bathroom if the city does not. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion, and it passed by hand vote.

**Montview Widening Project:** The Commission was made aware of the Montview Street Widening Project that the CU Anschutz Campus is doing in partnership with CDOT.

**Fitzsimons Chapel:** The Chapel is slated for preservation. The Gates Foundation has donated towards its preservation. Scott will get more information from Lyle Artz.

**Highline Canal:** The designation of the Highline Canal as a Cultural Heritage Site has been approved by the city attorney. Scott will talk to Parks, Recreations, and Open Space (PROS) about putting up signage.

**City Council Members:** Commissioner Ackman has been talking to Mayor Pro Tem, Chris

Gardner. He might be the next City Council member to invite to the next HPC meeting.

**Windler:** No update.

**Budget:** The budget stands at \$6,450. Dues were paid to the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). The Commissioners are now members of the NAPC.

### III. Old Business

**Fox Theatre SHF Grant:** Gabi Tobin is the new Public Works Project Manager. Design requests are being solicited by the city now. The grant extension has been approved and extended until May 2024.

**Senac Site (5AH.380):** The Landmark Nomination will be presented to a subcommittee session of the city council later. Aurora Water and PROS departments will review the Landmark Nomination before it is presented to the City Council.

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

**Pre-Contact Book Project:** No update.

**Phone Booths for Oral History:** The Coder School is working on the phone booths.

**Melvin School and Melvin Lewis Cemetery:** No update.

**Fitzsimons Golf Course Rain Structures:** Steve Krell Gardner looked at the rain shelters and may finance the move. A planning trip may be arranged to move the project forward.

**Mission Viejo:** Designation of this area has been tabled until after a historic survey is completed.

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

**Colorado Freedom Memorial:** The Cultural Heritage Designation Ceremony will take place on July 3. Scott will get the plaque ready.

**Ward Meetings:** No update

**Colfax Landmarks:** Scott can send out surveys to prioritize buildings to landmark.

**Elizabeth Johnson Award:** Bring suggestions for groups or individuals for this award.

**Site Plan Report:** Emma Bertrand- Smoky Hill Region: Commissioner Bertrand found that the signs for the Smoky Hill Trail and Toll Gate Creek are in good shape. The Melvin-Lewis Cemetery needs to be mowed. The marker is still in good shape. Scott has not been able to establish contact with the new owners. Melvin School needs repairs (paint, roof, screens, etc.) Scott will try to contact Katie Van Hooten , facilities manager at Cherry Creek Schools to discuss the repairs.

### IV. New Business

**Milliken House:** This landmark has been repainted. The Commission wonders if the realtor knew to pass on the Historic Designation information to the new homeowners.

**Landmark Photo Project:** Scott would like to have updated photos of all the Landmarks. HPC or AHS could fund this project.

The regular HPC meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Items for June 13, 2023, agenda 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
- Update on Oral History Update Phone Booths
- Update on Chapel and Fitzsimons Building 500 Landmark Nominations
- Update on Melvin School and Melvin Lewis Cemetery
- Update on Mission Viejo Historic District

- Update on Jamacia School National Registry
- Update on Highline Canal Signage
- Update on Centennial House Bathroom Remodel
- Discussion on Rain Shelters on Fitzsimons Golf Course Relocation
- Discussion on Ceremony to Designate Colorado Freedom Memorial as a Cultural Heritage Site
- Discussion of Possible Landmark Nominations Proposed from Colfax Trip
- Discussion of Elizabeth Johnson Award and Larger Audience
- Discussion of Landmark Review and Realtors
- Discussion on Relocation of Fitzsimons Golf Course Rain Shelters

**V. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Lynne Evans

Date: May 7, 2023

Approved by: 

Date: 6-13-23

