

**AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, August 8, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Community Gallery**  
**Aurora History Museum**  
**15051 E. Alameda Parkway**  
**Aurora, CO 80012**

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

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Scott Williams, Chris Geddes

**Guests:**

**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 June 9, 2023, were approved as amended via motion.

**Announcements:** The announcement was made that HPC Secretary Lynne Evans was stepping down from that position and Commissioner Emma Bertrand will be replacing her as HPC Secretary until the April 2024 officer elections.

Commissioner Barbara Henk resigned from the HPC on August 7, 2023, which leaves two positions on the HPC open. HPS Chris Geddes stated that she received one application. Some diversity and Ward 1 representation on the HPC is desired.

**II. Staff Report**

Chris Geddes, Historic Preservation Specialist (HPS) gave her report.

**Section 106 reviews:** Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is planning improvements to the sidewalks in various areas around the city, but no adverse effects have been determined.

The Radiant Motel at 10950 E. Colfax Ave. is seeking approval for HOME Funds.

**Museum Programs:** The HPC was given an overview of the current programs and exhibits offered by the Aurora History Museum.

**Windler:** No update.

**Planning Department Pre-Application agendas:** A 10-story building, Stanley Apartments, is proposed to be built east of Stanley Marketplace.

**Colfax BRT:** Work is beginning.

**Centennial House:** The bathroom remodel at Centennial House is complete. The Facilities team tried to be as authentic as possible. The porch will be painted.

**Senac Site (5AH.380):** A study session is set for August 21 with Scott, Gordy, and Todd. After the study session, a presentation to City Council will be scheduled for early September.

**Lowry Building 880 Interpretive Signage:** HPS Geddes has contacts from the 1959 and 1960 Air Force Academy classes to proofread the interpretive sign draft.

**Jamaica School:** HPS Geddes has spoken with Josh Hensley, APS planning Coordinator

**Jamaica School:** HPS Geddes has spoken with Josh Hensley, APS planning Coordinator for Aurora Public Schools, and a presentation of the landmark process and COA HP Ordinance has tentatively been scheduled for September.

**Montview Widening Project:** Montview Widening project involves the city in conjunction with CU Anschutz and CDOT. \$30 million needed; CU looking for federal funding = Section 106 Awaiting initiation of Section 106 by CDOT. Army barracks demolished in 2022. Fitzsimons Fire Station built in 1942 is slated for demolition. Chapel is to be reused.

**Fitzsimons Golf Course Rain Structures:** Chair Hamilton and HPS Geddes are working with PROS and Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (FRA) on the relocation of the rain structure.

**Fox Theatre SHF Grant:** HPS Geddes had an initial meeting with project manager, Andrew Van Essen, and other involved city departments. It is hoped that the project will be under contract by late September or early October.

**Melvin School:** A site visit has been scheduled with the State Historical Fund (SHF) office and the Cherry Creek School District staff on August 9. A draft grant application should be ready in September before the October 2 SHF grant deadline.

**Melvin Lewis Cemetery:** Phone calls to the new owners have not elicited a response. HPS Geddes will try sending an email inquiry.

**Delaney Farm Historic District:** Gully House and the Education Barn both suffered vandalism.

**Highline Canal:** Interpretive signage planning is being set up with PROS. Arapahoe County is said to be buying the Highline Canal.

**Colorado Freedom Memorial:** The Cultural Heritage Site Designation Ceremony took place on August 1, 2023. Design plans were unveiled for a new building to serve as a Welcome Center and meeting area. A Buy-a-Brick Program has been established to help fund the new building. It is hoped that the building will be dedicated on Memorial Day 2025. It was proposed that the HPC buy a brick to support the organization.

**Riviera Motel Sign:** The sign is in danger of being removed. HPS Geddes is working with neon sign experts to find a solution to preserve the sign in place.

**January 2024 Retreat:** The HPC will have a retreat in January 2024 to update the Strategic Plan.

**City Council Members:** Historic Sites will coordinate with Library Cultural Services Director and Departmental Community Relations Manager to formulate plan for educational outreach.

**Budget:** The budget stands at \$6,325.00 remaining in the budget. Total expenditures are \$275.00. CPI registration and other educational training or buying a brick at Colorado Freedom Memorial are two possible ways to spend the remaining budget.

### III. Old Business

**Pre-Contact Book Project:** No update. (This item is tabled for the time being.)

**Phone Booths for Oral History:** The Coder School is working on a summer completion.

**Mission Viejo:** No update. (This item is tabled for the time being.)

**Dam East & West:** The Cultural Heritage Designation is on hold until after a survey is performed. (This item is tabled for the time being.)

**Ward Meetings:** No update at present.

**Colfax Landmarks:** An HPC field trip may be planned.

**Elizabeth Johnson Award:** The HPC will revisit this after the first of the year, possibly at the HPC retreat.

**Site Plan Report:** Elizabeth Hamilton reported on Original Aurora Region Group 1: #6 Milliken House | 1638 Galena St.; #11 Centennial House | 1671 Galena St.; #25 Robidoux House | 1615 Galena St.; #28 McMillan House | 1629 N. Galena St. Chair Hamilton reported that there was a dead tree in the yard at Centennial House, and that both the Robidoux and Milliken houses needed work.

**IV. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Lynne Evans      Date: August 16, 2023

Approved by:       Date: 9-12-23