

AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

6:00 p.m.



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

Present: Chair Elizabeth Hamilton, Vice Chair Mike Ackman, Secretary Emma Bertrand, Gordy Tucker, Lynda Heckendorn, Charlie Peters, and Todd McMahon

Absent: Lynne Evans

Staff: Chris Geddes, Scott Williams

Guests:

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Elizabeth Hamilton called the Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 6 p.m.

The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on August 8, 2023, were approved as amended via motion.

II. Staff Report Chris Geddes (HPS):

Compliance Section 106

Fox Arts Center: The Neon Sign Restoration RFP closed on August 31, 2023. Only 2 bids were received by the City. City Council must approve the contractor since three bids were not received. Public Works will present to City Council in October. Hope to have the company under contract in November.

Senac Site: Commissioners Tucker and McMahon worked hard on this project. Museum Director Scott Williams and Commissioner Tucker attended the City Council meeting. Commissioner McMahon met with museum staff on Senac Site interpretative signage. Site visit on October 2, 2023, for museum staff and interested HPC members.

Melvin School: Letter of support for SHF grant application given to HPC for review and Chair signature. Grant to be submitted on October 2, 2023, with award notification on December 15, 2023. Work to begin in 2024.

Melvin-Lewis Cemetery: Emails as well as a hard copy letter sent to the owners. No response yet.

Jamacia School: HPS Geddes and Director Williams will attend APS BOE meeting next week. Letter of support explaining architectural and historical significance sent August 30, 2023. Staff to work on Local Landmark process as National Register listing in 2017 automatically triggered Local Landmark status.

Highline Canal Signage: Commissioner McMahon, HPS Geddes and Director Williams met with PROS Staff Nicole Ankenny about signage for Thunder Tree and the Highline Canal. Ankenny has maps and text for signs. HPS Geddes met Tracy Young, Highline Canal Conservancy COO, at Ward I meeting.

Fitzsimons Golf Shelter: HPS Geddes sent emails to City Public Works, PROS, and Golf

Departments. Still working on funding for the relocation. No one seems opposed to the move. May need to disassemble and store until a plan is in place. Springhill Golf Course, where it will be rebuilt, has room to store it. Staff to check with Facilities/ Bryan Neill for someone to price the disassembling and transport. HPC may use some of its budget to help. Need pricing first.

Colfax Avenue Field Trip: Date selected for HPC Field Trip: Saturday, November 4, 2023. HPC should prioritize and plan. HPS Geddes suggested an HPC subcommittee that involves Jonny Barber.

Fitzsimmons Nominations: Building 500 (CU Anschutz) and Eisenhower Chapel (FRA) do not have preservation minded owners. Building 500 has State Register designation, but CU Anschutz is reluctant to go through the local landmark process. FRA is unsure about local landmark status for the Chapel. Need to come up with reasons that this benefits them. Council support would be good.

HPC Retreat: Date selected for HPC Retreat: January 20, 2024. Looking into locations for the meeting. The goal is to work on the HPC strategic plan and discuss updating the HP ordinance. Looking for a facilitator.

Guest Speaker: The October HPC meeting will have a guest speaker: Rick Cronenberger, former Littleton HPB Chair, retired NPS historical architect.

Delaney Farm: The Education Barn was vandalized: a window was broken; the window company recommends repairing all 4 panes. HPS Geddes requested \$3000 for repair of 2 panes. Commissioner Tucker moved to contribute \$3,000 for window repair. Seconded by Vice Chair Ackman. Motion passed. Commissioner Tucker asked what can be done to prevent this in the future. Staff is discussing security options with PROS, including motion sensor lights. Some siding needs to be repaired on the Education Barn. PROS can do some but not all; awaiting a bid for repair.

Centennial House: Facilities/ Bryan Neill getting an estimate for ADA bar in the bathroom. Commissioner Evans previously mentioned the porch was supposed to be painted. HPS Geddes advised HPC that Facilities used special lumber and it should not be painted. It could be painted (shorter life span), stained or left as is. HPS Geddes will check on stain options. Shed recently broken into. Facilities to put new lock on the shed. More security is needed. PROS has put Centennial House on the waitlist to remove the dead tree and trim branches, likely early 2024.

HPC Vacancies: Still have 2 vacancies. There is a preference for residents from Ward I and diversity.

Windler Farm: HPS Geddes and Director Williams will do a site visit on September 20, 2023, with the architect and the landscape architect. Will also discuss a local landmark designation timeframe.

HPC Assistant Job: The Historic Preservation Assistant position was posted and some applications are coming in. Hoping to set up interviews in the next few weeks.

III. **Site Report: Lynda Heckendorn**

Commissioner Heckendorn reported on Original Aurora Group 2: #20 Hornbein Building; #28, McMillan House; #29 Strait Lumber; and #30 Carlson-Holzer House.

IV. **Old Business**

- Phone Booth: Beta testing at the end of September.
- Brick purchase: Vice Chair Ackman motioned to purchase 1 brick. Commissioner Tucker

amended the motion to include purchase of up to 3 bricks. Seconded by Chair Hamilton. Motion Passed.

- Holiday Dinner Suggestions: HPC voted for Stanley Marketplace. HPS Geddes will check on the dinner options there and report back at the October 10, 2023, meeting. Scheduled for December 12, 2023.

V. New Business


- HPC Officer elections will take place in April 2024.
- Discussion about the City Council outreach. Did not hear back from Curtis Gardner. Will try for November.
- The Cultural Affairs Commission changed their bylaws to include a representative from the HPC or Aurora Museum Foundation (AMF).
- October 10, 2023, HPC meeting to be held at the Fox Arts Center.

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:03p.m.

Submitted by: Emma Bertrand

Date: September 25, 2023

Approved by:  Date: 10-17-23