

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



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

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

Absent:

Staff: Chris Geddes, Scott Williams

Guests: Tyler Lovejoy, Jazmin DeLaRosa

I. Call to Order

- A quorum being present, Chair Hamilton called the Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.
- The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on October 17, 2023, were approved as distributed.

II. Staff Report: Chris Geddes (HPS):

Compliance Section 106:

- Eagle Point has archaeological potential. SHPO wants a Class III archaeological survey. Developer is responsible for hiring firm to do the survey.
- Working with housing developers in areas east of Buckley. Commissioner Tucker says that there was a predictive modeling survey of the area in the 1990s. HPS doesn't have access to archaeological surveys, only above ground resources.
- COA Certificate of Appropriateness: there will be some coming in to the HPC in the new year: Melvin School with ADA ramp (major) and Fox Theater (fence)
Major Changes= HPC Reviews
Minor Changes= HPS Reviews

Fox Arts Center:

- Kick off meeting with DaVinci Sign Systems on 11/7/2023. Reaching out to the public to see if anyone remembers the original neon colors. HPS doing roof examination on 11/15/2023 with neon expert to see if there are any glass shards to help determine original neon colors. Work should begin in the next few weeks. The CoA for this project is minor alterations.

Senac Site:

- Need to follow up with Commissioners Tucker and McMahon as part of next steps. Contacting Tribal Representatives and a meeting with PROS to decide on sign location.

Melvin School:

- Met with 2 CCSD teachers on 11/7/2023 to see what kind of projects students at the school could participate in. Discussed potential projects such as researching native plants for landscaping, cataloging the books and artifacts in the school, and creation of a webpage with information about the school.
- SHF grant announcements to be made on 12/15/2023. Team meeting on 12/18/2023 to

discuss next steps. If funded work starts spring of 2024. If not funded will reapply 4/1/2024. CCSD also applied for grant for Cherry Creek School House but pulled the grant application due to a 20-year covenant. Hopefully that improves the chances of the Melvin grant getting approved.

Melvin – Lewis Cemetery:

- New president of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society received a call from the property owner asking if the cemetery could be moved. No other contact or response to our inquiries.

Highline Canal:

- PROS Supervisor to meet with HPS Geddes, Director Williams, Commissioner McMahon, and Highline Conservancy Trust COO Tracy Young on 11/15/2023. HPS/HPC adamant that sign needs to be by the roots of the Thunder Tree. PROS wants the location of the sign to be along the Highline Canal.

Fitzsimons:

- **Gatehouses:** Graffiti reported on Gatehouse 8/17/2023, finally removed on 10/27/2023. New coats of paint on both buildings
- **Golf Shelter:** Waiting for a third estimate to disassemble and move Golf Shelter to Spring Hill Golf Course for storage. HPS to work with PROS to decide way forward after third estimate is received.
- **Fitzsimons Chapel:** Information sent to Deputy City Manager on landmark process, history of attempts to landmark building, and 1998 memo from Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority stating they were interested in landmarking the building in the “near future.” Would like to start the landmark process in January of 2024. There was a written landmark application done in 1998, so that information can be transferred to a new local landmark nomination form.

Colfax Field Trip/Tour:

- The group went from East Yosemite Street to E-470 and drove the original Route 40. There will be a subcommittee to work on Colfax. 2 HPC members who went on the tour. They will prioritize properties, meet with the HPS, and work to see what resources we are interested in saving as well as how to go about protecting/ preserving important historic resources.

HPC Retreat:

- Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at CAPSTC. Materials will be provided for review prior to the meeting. Abbey Christman, Vice Chair of NACP, will provide a mini-CAMP training. Ron Sladek, with Tatanka Historical Associates will facilitate. Breakfast, beverages, snacks, and lunch will be provided. 9am to 3:30pm.
- A new HPC Strategic Plan will be provided after Ron Sladek has time to compile the information into a document.

DeLaney Farm:

- **Education Barn:** HPC saw after photos of siding repair and new window sills. Facilities paid for part and \$3,000 was from HPC budget. The broken window will be reinstalled before Open House Days.
- **Gully House:** West side front porch is in bad shape. Waiting for cost estimate to repair. Depending on the cost, it could come from HPC or AMF.
- **Coal Creek Outhouse:** East outhouse is in poor condition. HPS is looking to stabilize it

immediately and waiting for an estimate. West outhouse and stable need minor work but not as bad. Will be looking to work on all three outbuildings in the spring.

Lowry Building:

- There are structural concerns: HPS found a crumbling foundation, rotted siding and holes in the window sills. The City does not have a structural engineer. HPS and new HPA to apply for an Historic Structure Assessment grant from SHF to understand everything that needs attention and prioritize the tasks.
- Building 880 is on the National Register at the national level of significance as well as being a Local Landmark. It one of 3 remaining WWII H-shaped buildings on Lowry as well as one of the few original Buildings from first Air Force Academy before it moved to its permanent campus in Colorado Springs.
- The HPS reached out to the Class of '59 members for involvement with the planned interpretive signage.

III. Old Business:

- **Colorado Freedom Memorial:** Brick is purchased! Text had to be shortened slightly due to size of brick and length of quote plus putting Aurora Historic Preservation Commission on it.
- **HPC Holiday Dinner:** Will need a headcount by 12/8/2023, dinner will be at Fat Boys on 12/12/2023 at 6pm.

IV. New Business:

- **Existing Plaques:** All Local Landmark plaques need to be cleaned. Cleaner Commissioner Ackman tried at KOA did not work, so will be looking for something else to brighten them up.
- **Site Reports:**
Laura MacDonald: Fuller House is in good condition but needs a bit of paint. Stanley Marketplace is in good condition but needs a bit of paint. Smith-Cox House is in good condition.
Charlie Peters: The William Smith High School is in good condition, though there looks to be some concrete damage. It may be just a bad repair job. The William Smith House is in excellent condition.

Next regular meeting will be on January 9, 2024.

V. Adjournment

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

Submitted by: Emma Bertrand

Date: December 4, 2023 (Revised Chris Geddes, HPS)

Approved by: _____



Date: _____

1-9-24