

AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

6:00 p.m.



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

Present: Chair Elizabeth Hamilton, Vice Chair Mike Ackman, Emma Bertrand, Charlie Peters, Gordon Tucker, Lynda Heckendorn, Laura MacDonald, Tyler Lovejoy, Marpessa Allen, and Todd McMahon

Absent: Lynne Evans

Staff: Chris Geddes, Scott Williams, and Courtney Mosca

I. Call to Order

- A quorum being present, Chair Hamilton called the Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on January 9, 2024, were approved as distributed.

II. Staff Report: Historic Preservation Specialist Chris Geddes (HPS Geddes):

- Special Recognition: Commissioner Ackman received the NSDAR Community Service Award
- AHM Exhibits/Events
- Compliance/Section 106 Review/Pre-App:
 - Homer J Smith Farm: Pre-app process has developer wanting to construct 11 apartment buildings on site; HPS Geddes suggested reuse plan to be presented to developer that incorporates farm's pre-existing structures.
 - 11201-11297 E Colfax Avenue: entire block to be demolished for workforce housing; HPS Geddes to photo-document before demolition; reminder of the fact that we are losing a lot of these 1950s commercial buildings.
 - 13870 E 6th Avenue: (DOC: 1970, architect Richard T. Crandell) former Skate City to be demolished; structure significant for its architectural history as well as its recreational and social impact within Aurora.
- Landmark Property Updates:
 - Melvin School:** Cherry Creek School District is fully funding the work; CoA for Major Alterations to be presented to HPC at March 12, 2024 meeting; CoA for Minor Alterations submitted to HPS for review and approved.
 - Fox Arts Center:** Physical work to begin in the next weeks, including neon tubing removal and paint stripping; next deliverable is the paint mock-up. Security measures (gate/door and half-wall infill) qualify as Major Alterations - CoA with HPC review at public hearing tentatively set for March 12, 2024. Seating: meeting with new seating company (Irwin) to discuss better options for end panels and seat materials.
 - DeLaney Farm:** Gully House ADA ramp completed, west porch in the works. Meeting Bryan Neill to discuss prioritization of future projects. Money coming from PROS over the next 5 years will cover a variety of projects and deferred maintenance.
 - Fitzsimons Golf Shelter Relocation** - New estimate for relocation and reconstruction is approximately \$52,000; Golf cannot give money for the project. Discussion surrounding more cost-effective options or paths to pursue – members to email HPS Geddes with any ideas so that she can get information to PROS and Golf.
 - Fitzsimons Chapel Local Landmark Nomination Status** – Meeting with Major, City Manager, and Deputy City Manager to be determined; 4/24 HPS presentation to FRA/FIC Board. Local landmark nomination still being discussed and could potentially

take place Fall 2024. A lot of uncertainty by various players on how to handle yearly maintenance costs and funding in the face of public vs private building usage.

Fitzsimons Fire Station: Fire Station to be avoided in the Montview widening project, at present. The building is National Register eligible and may benefit from increased awareness from educational efforts surrounding its significance and letters of support.

Lowry Building 880: Architects working on plan and cost estimates; then can proceed to strategize on funding sources, such as a National Trust grant.

Senac Site Interpretation: Interpretative panel drafts well-received; some minor corrections. Native American Tribal Gathering to take place with Gail Ridgley on February 23, 2024. Meeting with Fred Mosqueda (Cheyenne Arapaho) and Chester Whiteman (Southern Cheyenne) on February 27, 2024.

HPC Retreat Recap: Abbey Christman's presentation on conservation overlays and diversity/cultural importance was well received by the group. Ron Sladek, facilitator, engaged the group and received good information to prepare an updated Strategic Plan. Next steps: Ron working on draft of the Strategic Plan tentatively for review in April.

III. Site Report: Lynda Heckendorn

- #2 William Smith House: no external damage, in good condition, and well taken care of.
- #24 Trolley Trailer No. 610: in excellent condition.
- #26 Bicentennial Art Center: damage to shed on west side, but building is in good shape.

IV. Old Business:

- CPI Conference: overall good impression from those in attendance – especially with regards to keynote speaker presentations. Conference to take place in Colorado Springs next year and new HPC members should have priority to attend.
- Elections in April
 - Chair and Vice Chair
 - Ballots vs. Nominations at April HPC Meeting? Group in favor of ballots and one-year terms; everyone agreed elections should take place in April for session until January 2025, then another election in January 2025 for two-year terms. Send nominations to HPC Geddes or contact her if you're interested in running.
- Field Trip on Sunday February 25, 2024 to Morry's Neon. Details to come via email.

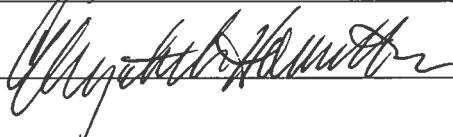
V. New Business:

- Call for public input on any items not previously addressed
- Call for items of business by Commissioners or Staff
 - Subcommittee sign-up sheet passed around for everyone to complete.
 - Elizabeth Johnson Award: two nominations for Commissioner Evans (not present). Discussion - hold as separate event or include as part of the May 14, 2024, meeting? All agreed it should be a separate event. We will work on planning. Expenses (cake/plaque): HPS requested up to \$150 MOTION: Commissioner Bertrand; Second: Chair Hamilton. All in favor, motion is carried.
- Agenda March 12, 2024, HPC Meeting

VI. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by: Courtney Mosca/ Revised Chris Geddes Date: 3/1/2024

Approved by:  Date: 3-12-24