

**AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, March 12, 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, Lynne Evans, Laura MacDonald, Todd McMahon, Tyler Lovejoy, and Marpessa Allen

**Staff:** Chris Geddes and Scott Williams

**I. Call to Order**

- A quorum being present, Chair Hamilton called the Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on February 13, 2024, were approved as distributed.

**II. Public Hearings**

The Regular Meeting was suspended at 6:02 pm and the Public Hearing started (see separate minutes for Public Hearing).

- Melvin School – ADA Ramp Construction and Shrub Removal
- H.M. Milliken House – Post-Installation Review of Solar Panels

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:46pm and the Regular Meeting reopened.

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

- AHM Exhibits/Events
- Compliance/Section 106 Review/Pre-App:
  - 960 Macon Street:** NOT Eligible
  - Homer J Smith Farm update:** Loafing shed demolished – no opportunity to document it; currently: developer’s plan is to keep the barn and silo but still to be determined within next 6-8 months; HPS Geddes to be kept in the loop to be able to document any buildings prior to demolition.
- Landmark Property Updates:
  - Fox Arts Center:** Neon tubing removal and vitrolite panel replacement process to begin as soon as weather conditions improve. With regards to the seating project, sample seat to be received shortly from new company, Irwin Seating, and still on track to work on project this summer (July/August). Also discussing the idea of bringing back some of the original murals at some point.
  - DeLaney Farm:** Alarm systems were upgraded with some of the PROS money left over from last year; system is now completely remote so HPS Geddes is able to set alarm from phone without having to be present on-site. Work on the outhouses and stable should happen this spring/summer; currently waiting for estimate to come in, which will tap into the PROS DeLaney funds available for improvements.
  - Fitzsimons Golf Shelter Relocation:** Major progress made in that the HPC will no longer have to put any financial contribution toward the relocation - PROS to fully fund the entire move, including disassembly, transport, concrete pad, and reconstruction with

new roofing.

**Fitzsimons Chapel Local Landmark Nomination Status:** The local landmark nomination form is tabled for now as the FRA/ FIC Board is concerned with perceived “restrictions”; site visit also cancelled for the time being.

**Lowry Building 880 Foundation and Exterior Work:** Waiting for more detailed pricing information with regards to scope of work submitted by architects.

**Senac Site Interpretation:** Director Williams and Commissioner McMahon with Fred Mosqueda, with the Southern Cheyenne Tribe and visited the Senac Site. Great visit with good discussion and important information shared by Mosqueda. The next goal is to meet with Northern Arapaho Tribal representatives. Additional consultation to be scheduled for April.

- Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant: Our grant application scored very high and was received with enthusiasm; however, Congress has not passed a budget, so we are all in a state of limbo and will have to wait for \$25,000 to be released on a contingency basis.
- Summer Interns: Aurora Historical Society funding half of internship stipend for two interns and HPS Geddes request the other half from the Aurora Museum Foundation in April. Interest has been noted for making the summer internship program an annual program – especially if we’re able to come up with a stipend for it and get younger people from the community involved in contribution. Colfax Avenue will be the focus of both 2024 internships, with one intern performing sign recordation, researching the properties, and preparing a local landmark nomination. The second intern will focus on motel research for a future historic context on Motels of East Colfax Avenue.
- Budget: Motion by Commissioner MacDonald to approve an additional \$100 for Elizabeth Johnson Award reception, seconded by Commissioner Bertrand. This makes a total of \$250 for the reception if needed. Noting current budget, HPC has \$6,300 for future usage.

#### IV. Site Report: Commissioner Tucker (Fitzsimons)

- #7 War Mothers Memorial House - Overall, the building looks fairly good compared with past inspections; plaque needs improvement as it has paint on multiple sides -HPS Geddes to look into possibility of replacing plaque.
- #13 Guardhouses at General’s Park – Both buildings recently repainted and look very nice; historic photo confirms they were accurately restored.
- #14 Waterfowl Preserve – The pond and park look great, especially with regards to pond cleanliness. There is a display regarding the rotary club and the pond itself, both are in good condition.
- #15 Beehive Memorial: The structure looks good but has no plaque at this point; maybe something we can investigate (placing on the north side). Also would like to consider some signage around the Red Cross Building to provide further context as to the historical background.
- Other: There are a handful of historic buildings at Fitzsimons that seem to be well-maintained, including Colonel’s Row. It was done by Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (FRA) so our job is to help them see the value in this approach.

#### V. Old Business:

- Elections in April
  - Chair and Vice Chair: a reminder that these elections will just be for positions until January 2025; we will vote again at that point to start the 2 year term rotation. Election to take place the end of the April meeting – HPC in agreement.
  - Send nominations to HPS Geddes by Friday, April 5, 2024.
- Subcommittees
  - Starting next month, reports to the HPC will be added to the agenda- just a quick and informal update on what members have been working on and if there are any

future events to note.

- Potential Landmarks/CHS Recommendations
  - Think outside the box: no need to recommend anything that is already in the works; this is more about discovering interesting sites and buildings when you're driving around town.
  - Send pics to HPS Geddes.
  - Highline Canal: there is some concern regarding proceeding with this given that HPC would have to notify ALL adjacent owners to the entire Aurora parcel; additionally, we will need a city council read on this to better understand if we would be able to proceed or if there is any sense of opposition by City Council. Final question is surrounding who would write the nomination. Consensus: hold on this for now as the entire High Line Canal is about to undergo an ownership transfer to Arapahoe County. It should be noted that this would be a good project in terms of community involvement and outreach – we would need to host multiple public meetings and entertain partnerships with Arapahoe County and the High Line Canal Conservancy with regards to next steps. If landmarking isn't possible, should consider going for cultural heritage site designation. More on this in the future.
- Field Trip to Morry's Neon on Sunday, April 7 at 1 p.m. Details to come via email.

**VI. New Business:**

- Cultural Heritage Site Nomination Form – Thunder Tree/Sand Creek Lateral; Nomination was discussed and questions answered by Commissioner McMahan, who prepared the nomination. Motion by Commissioner Tucker to accept this as our fourth Cultural Heritage Site, seconded by Commissioner Bertrand.
- Call for items of business by Commissioners or Staff
  - Elizabeth Johnson Award – Commissioner Bertrand to assist Historic Preservation Assistant (HPA) Mosca with planning efforts surrounding this event.
- Agenda April 9, 2024, HPC meeting: extend invites to councilmembers to attend – CM Hancock/CM Murillo/CM Lawson (ultimate goal: get every single person from city council to attend a meeting)
  - Next meeting: Charles Kastens, new president of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, to attend
  - May meeting to take place at the Fox Theater with COA on the security gates
  - NAPC membership coming up for renewal; great source for free webinars/training on ways to engage the preservation community.

**VII. Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by: Courtney Mosca/ Revised Chris Geddes Date: 4/1/2024

Approved by:  Date: 4/9/24