

AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

6:00 p.m.



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

Present: Chair Elizabeth Hamilton, Vice Chair Mike Ackman, Secretary Lynne Evans, Gordon Tucker, Courtney Morehouse, Barbara Henk, Charlie Peters, Lynda Heckendorn, and Todd McMahon

Staff: Drake Brownfield, Scott Williams

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Elizabeth Hamilton called the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC or Commission) meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes from the HPC regular meeting on January 11, 2022, were approved via motion.

Commissioner Tucker moved to suspend the regular HPC meeting for the public hearing. Commissioner McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The regular HPC meeting was suspended at 6:02 p.m.

II. Public Hearing on St. Therese Historic District Signage Addition, Major Alteration.

HPC held the Public Hearing on the approval of the proposed signage addition for St. Therese Historic District located at 1200 N. Kenton Street. The proposed signage location is near the front (main) entrance of St. Therese Catholic School. The preferred location would involve the removal of an existing bush, but the applicant will consider locating the sign on the opposite side of the walkway as a backup plan.

After discussion, the commission is willing to approve signage at either location but would like the applicant to consider signage that matches the construction of the building.

Commissioner Tucker moved to suspend action until the March 8, 2022, HPC meeting. Commissioner McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn the Public Hearing and resume the Regular February 8, 2022, HPC meeting was made by Commissioner Ackman. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

The Regular February 8, 2022, HPC meeting resumed at 6:23 p.m.

III. Staff Report

Historic Preservation Specialist Drake Brownfield gave his report.

Section 106 reviews: No historic properties affected.

Buckley Space Force Base: Buckley Space Force Base (BSFB) needs to demolish two buildings that would be eligible for historic designation. BSFB will complete a Historic American Building Survey (HABS) Level 2 documentation before demolition and signage will be placed.

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

Centennial House: Drake met with Facilities to discuss the bathroom renovation project at Centennial House. Facilities will fund the project and perform the work. Some Crawford Elementary after school program students will be at Centennial House on February 9th for a craft project

Historic Coloring/Activity Book Project: Coloring book would be geared to adults and would contain information and pictures. Commissioner Henk is creating some of the pictures. Historic Preservation Assistant Katie Leeper will present a progress report in March to the Aurora Museum Foundation, which is funding the project. The project proposal is for approximately 40 pages. The HPC will also be updated about the project in March.

Ward Meetings: Drake will look into holding an HPC meeting in Council Member Steve Sundberg's Ward II.

Budget: The current budget is \$6440. Drake renewed one of the HPC's magazine subscriptions.

Commissioner Heckendorn: Commissioner Heckendorn's application to join the Commission has been approved, and she was welcomed as a new member of the HPC.

III. Old Business

Red Cross Project: No progress.

Lowry 880: Commissioner Ackman has talked to Rick Crandall, who is going to be involved in the signage project.

Fox Signage: No update on progress of the sign. A problem of fires being made by homeless individuals for warmth could threaten the safety of the structure. Live safety measures may need to be implemented.

Windler Homestead: A master plan for the homestead is being developed. Repairs are planned on the historic barn for the purpose of reuse and as a possible landmark.

Site Plan Report: Commissioner Evans; Fitzsimons – the guardhouses are in good condition. There are what appear to be bullet holes in one building, and a window is boarded up waiting for repair. The fence on the northeast side has been broken down. The Waterfowl preserve is in good shape as is the interpretive signage and picnic pavilions. War Mother's home is about the same. It still needs paint and repairs. It appears a window is broken and boarded up on the front of the house. The Beehive Memorial is in good condition. There appears to be no real progress on the Red Cross Project. The future of the Chapel is still a concern.

Subcommittees: *Advocacy* – Commissioners Tucker, Evans, and Henk; *Events* – Commissioners Morehouse, Hamilton, and Peters; *Designation* – Commissioners Ackman, McMahon, and Heckendorn.

IV. New Business

Disaster Plan: Drake will look at Aurora's current disaster plan to see if it includes historic structures. The commission can then make suggestions for treatment of historic structures if needed. It was suggested that Drake also find out if appropriate documentation of historic structures has been done on all landmark buildings and assess whether more needs to be documented.

Saving Places Conference: Commissioners have been attending and will report at the March 2022 HPC meeting.

Mission Viejo: Discussion has begun to support marking Mission Viejo as an historic district.

Items for the February 8, 2022, meeting will include:

- Update on Red Cross Project
- Update on Lowry Building 880 Interpretive Signage
- Update on the Activity/Coloring Book
- Update on the Fox Signage SHF Grant
- Report on Wards Meetings
- Discussion of a Disaster Plan
- Site Plan Report: Commissioner McMahon/ Smoky Hill Region: #1 Melvin Schoolhouse | 4950 S. Laredo St., #21 Toll Gate Creek Archaeological Site | 2141 S. Kittredge Way, #22 Smoky Hill Trail Historic Marker | 23890 Smoky Hill Rd., #31 Melvin-Lewis Cemetery | 5600 S. Parker Rd.
- Food: Commissioner Evans

V. Adjournment:

The Commission adjourned its meeting 7:46 p.m.

Submitted by: Lynne Evans

Date: February 10, 2022

Approved by: 

Date: 3-8-22