

Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday,
April 26, 2023
161 North Dickason Boulevard

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ruth Hermanson at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present Commissioners Altschwager, Kaland, Elling, Hermanson, Gilbertson, Ulrich and Nichols. Recreation Director Meyers, Mayor Hammer, Carolyn Fredericks, John Salzwedel, Keith Luppnow were also present.

Notice of open meeting: Chair Hermanson noted that the meeting agenda had been posted and distributed per State Statutes.

Citizen comments on agenda items: Keith Luppnow presented plans for the buildings at 146 – 160 North Dickason Boulevard. No action was taken since this item was not on the agenda and there is no local designation on the property.

Approve agenda: Motion by Nichols, second by Kaland, to approve the agenda with removal of duplicate agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve minutes from the Regular Meeting March 22, 2023: Motion by Kaland, second by Altschwager to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Liaison Report: Council liaison Gray was not at the meeting. Mayor Hammer noted that the draft Ordinance update may be on the May 2 agenda. Commissioners requested that the Council be ready to address questions at the meeting. Chair Hermanson will see if Jason Tisch is available to attend on May 2 to answer questions from the Council. In the meantime, Mayor Hammer stated that the existing Code remains in effect and the Commission could proceed with designations under the existing format.

Staff Report: Recreation Director Meyers stated that she is planning to have summer camp at the Rest Haven this summer since we don't yet have a timeline for bids, awarding contracts or contractor schedules. Ms. Fredericks noted that the stairs for the Pavilion at Firemans Park received State SHPO approvals in 2017 and those have now expired – a new application and approval will be necessary for this work to be done in the future.

Treasurer's report: Altschwager presented the report as of April 26, 2023.

- Susan Stare Auditorium Fund (CD)		\$ 18,753.00
- Water Tower Fund	253474	\$ 3,312.67
- Mary Poser/ Former Columbus Auditorium Corporation	2502700 (CD)	\$ 30,512.58
- RestHaven Improvement	255362	\$ 63,244.34
- Façade Improvement Fund	255707	\$ 130.43
- Columbus Pavilion ADA Accessibility Fund	250968	\$ 3,942.59
- CHLPC Account	187450	\$ 34,165.50

Motion by Nichols, second by Gilbertson to accept the Treasurer's report dated April 26, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nichols, second by Altschwager to approve payment of \$198.00 to the July 4th Organizing Committee from account #187450 for a half-page ad in the July 4th Booklet. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Altschwager, second by Ulrich, to approve payment of \$2,200 (Invoice #1789) and \$1,836.50 (Invoice #1788) from account #255362 to Design Coalition on the Rest Haven plans and bid documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Nichols, second by Gilbertson to approve reimbursement to Chair Hermanson in the amount of \$198.99 from account #187450 for printing costs for the Concert Series sponsorship mailing. Motion carried unanimously.

Rest Haven SubCommittee Report: Chair Hermanson reported that the subcommittee has been working with Design Coalition to prepare the bid documents for posting. They will present this to the City Council and hope to have approval at the May 2 meeting.

- Architect prepares construction drawings, City Attorney prepares bid notifications
- City Council reviews construction drawings and authorizes bid notifications/publishing
- Notice of bids in newspaper and to various contractors
- Receipt of bids by City Clerk
- Review bids by City staff with recommendation to City Council
- Recommendation on funding source by CHLPC based on potential awarded bid amount
- Acknowledge funding of project by City Council
- Award/Rejection of bid by City Council

Summer Concert Series 2023: Chair Hermanson announced that the concerts will be held on June 14, July 12 and August 9 at the Fireman's Park. She has prepared additional mailings for the sponsorships and Altschwager will be mailing those by May 1. The subcommittee has agreements from various local service groups to serve food. Cercis will be providing the beer/wine.

Review of Auditorium information from past members of CAC or CHLPC

Ms. Fredericks and Mr. Salzwedel spoke regarding previous efforts to organize and fund-raise for City Hall auditorium restoration. Ms. Helen Klock was also in attendance at this time. The group identified concerns over the many tasks necessary to begin planning for restoration work and the time and cost involved in the preliminary stages. The most recent estimate of work to be done was over \$3 Million.

Auditorium Discussion Helen Klock and take action

Ms. Klock was not sure what action the Commission was expecting to take as the referral from the City Council was not very clear. Commissioners identified the need to coordinate with CHLPC as to the historic nature and designs. Also need to coordinate with City administration for access to the auditorium and any informal access by architects or even the general public.

Commissioner Gilbertson reviewed the materials in the CHLPC office and the previous studies that were available for review. She had catalogued and documented the information.

No action was taken and Ms. Klock, Ms. Fredericks and Mr. Salzwedel left at 6:15 p.m.

Status of Ordinance Review: Mayor Hammer and Chair Hermanson both expressed the need to bring this item to closure. The initial Council Sub-committee was formed over 4 years ago and still has not made any recommendations for the Ordinance update. The CHLPC understood that they had direction to proceed with a draft for presentation to the Council and they completed that material and forwarded to the City Attorney, Alder Gray and City Administrator in February, 2023.

The CHLPC emphasized the importance of updating this Ordinance and proceeding with possible local designations of landmarks and districts. Mayor Hammer acknowledged the situation and will work to obtain questions from the Council members prior to any discussion. He will also try to get this on the May 2 agenda for additional discussion and possible action.

Chair Hermanson noted that other communities had told her that their Ordinance reviews had taken many years also; so don't get discouraged,

Landmarks review process and take potential action

Chair Hermanson stated her desire to proceed as soon as possible with review and designations on the landmarks that had previously been studied by the CHLPC. There was a lengthy discussion about which properties had been studied in the past. No action was taken.

Historic Downtown TIF District updates: No action.

Procedures for checking out materials from CHLPC office:

Chair Hermanson asked the commissioners to review their notes from September 21 tour of the office and keep track of any materials removed from the City Hall.

Tour Book Review: Tabled to May meeting.

Webinar on Historic Preservation: Tabled to the May meeting.

WAHPC Convention Report from April 22, 2023: Chair Hermanson attended. There were lots of resources available for our Commission. She recommended we study the creation of a Preservation Plan for the Community.

Items April agenda: RestHaven plans status at City Council, Ordinance update review and possible application to Plan Commission, concert series preparation, lanyards, auditorium planning and funding request.

Next Meeting date Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion by Altschwager, second by Gilbertson, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Henry J. Elling, CHLPC Secretary