



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting

Held Telephonically

May 13, 2020 6 p.m.

FINAL MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

Present: Roby Littlefield (chair), James Poulson, Ana Dittmar, Scott Saline,

Absent: Bob Sam, Candace Rutledge

Staff: Amy Ainslie

Public: None

II. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR & OFFICERS AS NEEDED

M-Dittmar/S-Poulson moved to postpone the election of Vice Chair and officers as need until the next meeting. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

The commission discussed the vacancy of the Vice Chair position. Ainslie clarified that “officers as needed” was included if a current officer or chair wanted to fill the vice position which would warrant an election for an officer to fill the newly vacant officer seat. Ainslie noted it was appropriate to postpone an election if desired by the chair and commission. Chair Littlefield was open to postponement. Poulson and Dittmar wanted to postpone until the other two commissioners were present. Ainslie noted the next meet would likely be held in person which would aide in discussion and elections.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M-Poulson/S-Dittmar moved to approve the agenda. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 8, 2020 minutes

M-Poulson/S-Dittmar moved to approve the April 8, 2020. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

V. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None

VI. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

M-Poulson/S-Dittmar moved to draft a letter to send to the Assembly to be included in the packet to express dismay and disappointment in the reappointment denial of Commissioner Pollnow.

Chair Littlefield reported on the loss of Vice Chair Pollnow whose reappointment was denied by the Assembly. Littlefield recalled Pollnow had served on the commission for almost 20 cumulative years. She expressed her great appreciation for Pollnow's hard work, passion, and commitment to historical preservation and to the commission. She noted that the hole caused by her absence was large and would be difficult to fill due to Pollnow's knowledge, expertise, and experience. She mentioned that the former commissioner could now be hired by the commission to do the services that she had performed on a volunteer basis as a commissioner, but Chair Littlefield was uncertain if Pollnow would want to work with the commission after the ugly business with the Assembly. Littlefield noted she had sent a letter of support from the commission to the same assembly meeting, but it had not been read into the record. She wondered if there was any way to tell the assembly of the commission's disappointment with the decision. Ainslie stated that the commissioners could send a letter that would be included in the Assembly packet or could give a five minute testimony during the special reports section of the meeting. The commission agreed on drafting a letter to send. Littlefield would draft a letter, Ainslie would distribute it to the officers for revisions, comments, and additions. Littlefield hoped to send a completed letter to the assembly for the May 26th meeting.

B. No Name Mountain/Granite Creek Master Plan project

Ainslie gave a report on the No Name Master Plan Project. She displayed the project website and walked the commission through the video and survey. She noted the department had originally planned to hold public meetings to gather input from the community on land use suitability but were unable to do so due to travel restrictions for the consultants and public meeting restrictions. The website was created as an alternative method to get public feedback and had been open for input for two weeks and would close the following Sunday. The video on the site explained the different potential land uses, cost analysis, and land suitability identified by the consultants. The survey asked for public feedback about potential development preferences. When asked about landslide risk in the area Ainslie clarified the master plan was just used to identify potential uses and suitability for the land. Were development pursued for any of the uses further surveys, such as landslide studies, would be required before any development could happen. Ainslie noted the master plan was the first step in many and wanted to bring the project information to the attention of the commission so they could use the website for more information and submit feedback. Ainslie stated that community involvement was important in the process and they hoped to garner as much involvement as possible.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

C. Historic Preservation Plan

Chair Littlefield discussed the Historic Preservation Plan. The commission members had continued working on the plan over the previous month with reviews and suggestions sent by officers to Littlefield. Poulson verbalized some of his suggested changes of including the lighthouse in the historic inventory, noting the significance of the Sitka Historical Park as one of 57 National historical parks, cleaning up or removing the section on priorities, and listing the Historical Context to mirror the State's plan. He also thanked Dittmar for the groundwork she had laid for the plan in 2011. He noted the new version of the plan reflected on the work she had done. Dittmar added that the Statement of Significance

for the Nation Registry Sites (pgs 10-14) were disjointed in writing style and would like more congruence. Littlefield and Ainslie set a meeting for later in the week to put together the final draft incorporating the contributions and corrections.

D. Commissioner Recruitment

Chair Littlefield commented that the commission didn't have to do further recruitment as it was appropriate for planning to add it to the advertised list. Ainslie noted the vacancy had been added to the list of vacancies with the clerk's office. Poulson suggested informing the park service of the opening as many of their employees had degrees and knowledge related to historical matters. Dittmar also suggested informing the Sitka History Museum. Ainslie mentioned that this would be an opportunity to expand participation from tribal members which commissioners had expressed past interest in. She noted commissioner Sam was a liaison between the tribe and the commission but adding another member of the tribe to the commission would bring greater historical knowledge to the commission.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

E.105 Jeff Davis – New Garage Construction

M-Dittmar/S-Saline moved to approve the request for review of a new garage to be constructed at 105 Jeff Davis street conditional on the new structure blending in with the character of the neighborhood and using materials that were complimentary to the existing building materials on site. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

Ainslie presented the request for review of new garage to be constructed at 105 Jeff Davis St. Poulson noted that the house, known as Houk House, was a continuous element of the National Historical Landmark of the Sheldon Jackson campus. Poulson expressed concern over the structure having a visual effect on the neighborhood. He reminded the commission that he was a neighbor and while he didn't have a financial interest in any changes, his opinion was affected by his proximity to the project. Ainslie noted the owner intended to use shingle cladding on the small garage which would help it match the cladding on the original house. Poulson saw no problems with the structure so long as it didn't block the view of the main building and blended in with the character of the neighborhood.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):

(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6 pm **Location TBD**)

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – Regular Monthly Meeting

Ainslie noted the next meeting would likely be in person but intended to still offer a call-in option for those who cannot or do not want to meet in person.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, Chair Littlefield adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.