



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting

Harrigan Centennial Hall

August 13, 2025 6:15 p.m.

FINAL MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Present: Roby (Koolyéik) Littlefield, Yeidikook'áa Dionne Brady-Howard, Karen Lucas, Steve Íxt'ík Eesh Johnson (via Zoom)

Excused: Nicole Fiorino

Absent: James (Kushxeet) Poulson, Scott Saline (Assembly Liaison)

Staff: Kim Davis, Ariadne Will

Public: Rebecca Poulson

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/Lucas-S/Brady-Howard moved to approve the August 13, 2025 meeting agenda. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

b. July 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

M/Brady-Howard-S/Lucas moved to approve the July 9, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

IV. GUEST &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

V. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

In her staff update, Will told the commission that the effort to rezone cemetery properties in Sitka remained underway, and that most cemetery property owners had responded to a letter sent by the Planning Office. She said that information regarding the rezoning of property as a cemetery was given to a family that had asked, and asked if the commission knew of a contact at STA with whom to share the information, and from where the Planning Office could ask about other properties that might benefit from rezoning and identification as cemeteries.

Other staff updates were the news that plans had been received for repairs to the Crescent Harbor net shed and information on a grant opportunity that had been forwarded to the city. Will said no changes to the exterior were proposed, but that the Planning Office had wanted to make sure the commission was aware. The grant opportunity was for an entity to establish its own grant program, and the Assembly had voted against the establishment of a program under the same grant in 2019.

Will said too that she spoke with the clerk, who would continue advertising the open HPC seat until filled.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

c. Memorial and Street Naming Policy

No updates.

d. Historic Preservation Plan

Will introduced the most recent draft of the Historic Preservation Plan, which included comments from STA and feedback from the April public input meeting. She explained that the final step was to review the goals and actions, including proposed changes made following the public input meeting, and to make any final edits before forwarding the plan for review by the Planning Commission and Assembly.

Commissioner Brady-Howard requested that Goal Five, relating to heritage tourism, be included in the draft plan, as it provided a chance to rectify the promotion of Russian colonial history that was centered in Sitka's tourism industry for several decades. The goal was originally slated for deletion from the plan draft.

Following the initial vote to approve the draft Historic Preservation Plan, Commissioner Lucas requested further information regarding the deletion of some of the previously suggested actions. Will explained that the goal of the discussion was to clarify actions and goals the commission wanted to focus on, and that deletion of any actions or goals was a prioritizing of other actions and goals, and not a denouncement of the actions or goals to be deleted.

M/Brady-Howard-S/Lucas moved to amend the draft Historic Preservation Plan to include Goal Five and its associated actions, and to change "promotion of historic resources" to "promotion of cultural and historic resources." Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

M/Brady-Howard-S/Johnson moved to approve the draft Historic Preservation Plan for forwarding to the Planning Commission and Assembly for approval. Motion failed 3-1 by voice vote with Commissioner Lucas opposed.

M/Lucas-S/Brady-Howard moved to reconsider the motion to approve the draft Historic Preservation Plan for forwarding to the Planning Commission and Assembly for approval. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

Clerk's Note: Following the failed motion to approve the draft Historic Preservation Plan for forwarding, Commissioner Lucas moved to reconsider the motion with the intent of voting to approve the plan. The commission and staff did not realize that the language of reconsideration automatically postpones the item for vote by majority at the following meeting. Given the intention of Commissioner Lucas's motion and the resulting unanimous vote, staff believes it justified to forward the Historic Preservation Plan to the Planning Commission and Assembly, rather than requiring another vote on the plan at the Historic Preservation Commission's next available meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

e. Review and recommendation of a deck replacement at 615 Etolin Street

The commission had no comments regarding the proposed deck replacement.

M/Brady-Howard-S/Lucas moved to recommend approval of the deck replacement at 615 Etolin Street. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

f. Request for comment on airport beacon adjacent to airport runway

Commissioner Johnson requested a comment regarding the proximity of the proposed airport beacon to historic resources be passed on to DOT. The commission requested also that DOT be informed of protocol regarding inadvertent discovery of culturally significant objects and human remains.

M/Johnson-S/Brady-Howard moved to provide a short comment regarding the proximity of historic resources and the protocol for inadvertent discoveries to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

VIII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6:15 p.m. **Harrigan Centennial Hall**)
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – Regular Monthly Meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Littlefield adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



Ariadne Will
Staff Liaison