

SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting
Harrigan Centennial Hall
December 13, 2023, 6 p.m.

FINAL MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Present: Roby (Koolyéik) Littlefield (Chair), James (Kushxeet) Poulson, Danielle Pensley, Karen Lucas, Scott Saline (Assembly Liaison Alternate, arrived 6:08 PM)
Excused: Dionne (Yeidikook'aa) Brady-Howard, JJ Carlson (Assembly Liaison)
Staff: Kim Davis

Public: Keith Nyitray, Bruce Gazaway, Michael Litman, Rebecca Poulson

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/Poulson-S/Lucas, moved to approve the agenda with the change of New Business first. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. October 11, 2023 minutes

M/Poulson-S/Lucas, moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2023 minutes. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

IV. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

V. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Davis reported there were two open seats on the Commission and the Planning Manager position was open and being advertised. Davis asked if the commission would like to add a discussion item to the next agenda regarding a street naming policy. Members stated they would like to start the process and suggested staff look to see if anything had been done in the past.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. Historic Preservation Plan.

Commissioner Pensley updated the Commission on the Historic Preservation Plan. The Commission would like to have the plan completed by the end of spring and was in the process of completing final edits and formatting. Pensley suggested that she would soon be able to dedicate more time to the plan and asked if there could be an possible contract or honorarium to support their work. Davis stated any contract would have to be a bid process and would discuss with the Planning Director on pathways forward and process. It was also suggested they could report to the Assembly and staff could assist in getting them on the agenda.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

c. Sitka Maritime Heritage Society grant and project update.

Keith Nyitray, the new executive director of the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society, provided an update on their CLG grant project regarding the Japonski Island Boathouse. There was an open house attended by approximately 60 people. They had received a grant of \$10,660 from the Rasmuson Foundation, which would be used to complete the addition of an ADA-compliant bathroom. They also would be receiving two other grants totaling \$20,000 each from the State Historic Preservation Office for restoration, a sprinkler system and educational purposes. Nyitray discussed the successful adult classes and fundraisers, with plans to continue these events in the spring. A collaborative educational video about tribal citizens' involvement in maritime history was also planned.

d. Historic Preservation Fund project updates on Whitmore Hall and Tillie Paul Manor.

Rebecca Poulson provided an update on the restoration of Tillie Paul Manor. They would be restoring the windows on the sun porch by taking them apart, fixing any damages, and replacing the glazing or glass. Poulson also held an open house to educate people on the history of the building.

The second project was the interior restoration of Whitmore Hall, which involved restoring the front of the building to its original layout and installing a new heating system. They had also held an educational event that included a walking tour and exhibits. Poulson discussed the many challenges involved in installing a heating system in a large building, which took approximately a year to design, and the importance of year-round usability of the building.

e. 718 Alice Loop, new construction of a tri-plex.

Davis presented the plans for new construction of a tri-plex at 718 Alice Loop. The owners wanted to construct a single-story tri-plex. Commissioners determined there was no impact to the historical area and recommend approval.

M/Poulson-S/Lucas, moved to recommend the request at 718 Alice Loop. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

VIII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):

(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6pm, Harrigan Centennial Hall)

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – Regular Monthly Meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Littlefield, hearing no objection, adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM