



# 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**

June 8, 2022 6 p.m.

### **FINAL MINUTES**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

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

Present: Roby Littlefield (Chair), Scott Saline, James Poulson, Karen Lucas (telephonic), Danielle Pensley (telephonic), David Miller (Assembly liaison)

Absent: Chuck Miller, Bob Sam (excused)

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Hahlen Behnken Barkhau, Melissa Henshaw, Michael Colliver

Public: Rebecca Poulson, Elliot Heath, Scott Kuyper

#### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**M-Poulson/S-Saline moved to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.**

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 13, 2022 minutes

**M-Poulson/S-Saline moved to approve the April 13, 2022 minutes. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.**

#### **IV. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

Lucas introduced Elliot Heath and noted her work to have the Port Alexander Museum added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Rebeca Poulson reported on grants received by the Sitka Fine Arts Camp and Maritime Historical Society. She described the work done to improve weatherization and heating systems for Frasier Hall and Whitmore Hall on the Fine Arts Camp Campus. She noted that costs were so far lower than expected and both projects were making good progress. Moving on to the Maritime Historical Society grant, she noted that it was being used to replace beams around the door of the boathouse, as well as upgrading the electrical system and restrooms.

## V. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Ainslie updated the Commission on the hiring of Behnken as a temporary planning assistant and Kim Davis as Planner 1.

Poulson inquired about ongoing work by the National Park Service (NPS) to update the inventory of historic structures on Japonski Island. R Poulson noted that she had talked to their historian and historical architect and clarified that NPS is updating the nomination of the Sitka Naval Operating Base and U.S. Army Coastal Defenses National Historic Landmark.

Saline noted that one of the photos in the Centennial Hall entrance was mislabeled as a Tlingit elder, but actually showed a Haida chief.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### B. Historic Preservation Plan

Littlefield expressed support for moving the historical preservation plan forward and submitting it to the Assembly for adoption at their next meeting. She stated that she did not feel it was necessary to wait for further input from Sitka Tribe of Alaska, as they had not made comments since receiving the draft in 2020.

Miller asked that a memo describing the history of the plan's development be provided with the plan to the Assembly. Ainslie suggested that reviewing of the plan be put on the agenda for July 13<sup>th</sup>, at which time the commission could finalize the plan and memo. In discussing how to draft the memo, Ainslie suggested that Commissioners submit their knowledge/history of the plan's development to her by the end of June, and that she could then compile that input into a draft memo to bring to the meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>. R. Poulson suggested that the memo place emphasis on the role of the public in shaping the plan and noted that she did not feel the public had been sufficiently involved since circa 2010.

**M-Saline/S-Lucas moved to advance the plan for Assembly review next month, subject to a final review by the Commission at the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.**

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### C. Strategic Plan Presentation

Melissa Henshaw, the Public and Government Relations Director for CBS, gave a presentation about the Strategic Plan which was under development. She described the purpose of the plan, the planning process, and opportunities to get involved. She invited the Commissioners to share their favorite things about Sitka, and challenges facing the community. The discussion ranged from positives such as Sitka's natural setting, small town/rural feel, sense of community, and publicly owned power generation, and also touched on downsides such as challenges with infrastructure, municipal debt-levels, and dissatisfaction with local government.

#### D. Crescent Harbor Restroom Replacement

Ainslie presented preliminary concepts for the replacement of the public restrooms on the Crescent Harbor green strip. Michael Colliver, CBS Buildings, Grounds, & Parks Supervisor, described the pros and cons of the existing facility, and the intent to match the design of the new facility with CBS restrooms in the downtown area. Lucas expressed her desire for the new facility to have the same footprint as the existing facility so as not to lose any of the green space. Poulson concurred. Saline shared history about the beach that was filled to create Crescent Harbor, and how the green strip had been created as a trade-off.

#### **VIII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):**

(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month, 6pm **Harrigan Centennial Hall**)  
**Wednesday, July 13, 2022** – Regular Monthly Meeting

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Chair Littlefield adjourned the meeting at 7:23pm.**