



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting

Harrigan Centennial Hall

August 11, 2021 12 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Littlefield called the meeting to order at 12:13pm.

Present: Roby Littlefield (Chair), Bob Sam, Chuck Miller, James Poulson, Scott Saline

Absent: None

Staff: Ben Mejia, Amy Ainslie

Public: None

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

M-Poulson/S-Miller moved to that the current officers remain in place for another year (Roberta Littlefield, Chair; Bob Sam, Vice Chair; James Poulson, Secretary). Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote. The Commission agreed to maintain their officer positions for another year.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 9, 2021 minutes

M-Poulson/S-Saline moved to approve the June 9, 2021 minutes. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

V. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

VI. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Mejia informed the Commission of the renewed mask policy for city facilities, due to the recent increase in local COVID-19 cases, all city staff and visitors must wear a mask regardless of vaccination while in city facilities if social distancing could not be maintained.

B. Invitation from National Park Service to attend presentation on Russian Bishop's House Cultural Landscape.

Mejia shared the invitation from the National Park Service for the event on July 28th at 6pm in Harrigan Centennial Hall.



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VII. OLD BUSINESS

C. Historic Preservation Plan

Mejia informed the Commission that staff was working to schedule a special meeting with the Cultural Resources Committee of Sitka Tribe of Alaska. Miller explained that due to the recent increase in COVID cases, scheduling meetings had become challenging but that he would coordinate with Mejia and Ainslie to schedule the special meeting. Miller noted that the next special meeting was scheduled on July 22nd at noon though it may need to be pushed back.

D. Commissioner Recruitment

Mejia informed the Commission that Ana Dittmar was taking time away from the Commission and had not pursued reinstatement, thereby leaving two at-large Commission seats vacant though staff continued to post the vacancies.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

E. Construction at 631 Alice Loop

M-Poulson/Saline moved to recommend approval of the project at 631 Alice Loop. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

The Commission discussed the project location. Littlefield noted that there had been a tree traditionally used to dry seaweed in the area but that it had long been removed. The Commission saw no concern with the proposal.

F. Construction at 424 Katlian Avenue

M-Poulson/S-Saline moved to recommend approval of the project at 424 Katlian Avenue and convey concerns to the applicant that the structure be in keeping with architectural character of the neighborhood or cultural mitigation be pursued. Motion passed 4-1 by voice vote.

Commissioners Miller and Sam voiced their concern that the project location was situated where the Aanigayaa Hit house had been, Miller recognized that the caretaker of the clan house was Watla.aan. Saline noted that Anne Pollnow had been hired by the tribe to study the site and determined there was no archaeological significance. Saline also noted that the property was no longer under a restricted deed. The Commission noted discrepancies in the addressing of the area. Mejia explained that staff was aware of the addressing discrepancy on the map and would work to resolve it if possible. Sam expressed concern over the disappearance of the historic and unique character of the village and encouraged collaboration between the city and the tribe to protect the village. Poulson suggested that current zoning requirements may hinder development appropriate for the historical character of the area.

G. Discussion/Direction on updates to HPC Request for Review application forms

Mejia explained that staff was working to update the request for review form and wanted to head from the Commission what information should be captured in the form to assist in their



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determination process. Littlefield suggested that the form be used to gauge awareness of cultural significance of the project site by the applicant. Poulson suggested the form include a question about the whether the project would be in harmony with the surrounding historic and cultural environment. The Commission expressed support for staff to make edits to the form and share changes.

H. Discussion/Direction to change the regular meeting time from 6:00pm on the second Wednesday each month to 12:00 pm on the second Wednesday each month

M-Poulson/S-Saline moved to change the regular meeting time from 6:00pm on the second Wednesday each month to 12pm on the second Wednesday of each month for the remainder of the summer.

The Commission expressed interest in holding meetings at noon during the summer months and returning to the regular 6pm scheduling during the rest of the year. Sam mentioned that 6pm was preferable for him because noon meetings risked scheduling conflicts. Poulson explained that a noon meeting was only possible if the meeting was kept to an hour. Littlefield responded that she intended to keep meetings to an hour but it was difficult with a busy agenda. The Commission agreed to finish the summer a noon meeting.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):
(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 12 pm **Harrigan Centennial Hall**)
Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – Regular Monthly Meeting

X. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objection, Chair Littlefield adjourned the meeting at 1:19pm.

Providing for today...preparing for tomorrow