

SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting

Harrigan Centennial Hall

September 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, Dionne (Yeidíkok'aa) Brady-Howard, JJ Carlson (Assembly Liaison)

Staff: Kim Davis

Public: Anne Pollnow, Audrey Hudson

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

M/Brady-Howard-S/Lucas moved to postpone the election of officers until the October 11th regular meeting. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/Poulson-S/Brady-Howard, moved to approve the agenda with the change of New Business item E moved before all other items. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. July 12, 2023 minutes

M/Poulson-S/Brady-Howard, moved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2023. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

V. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

VI. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Davis reported the CLG historic preservation grant program was open to receive grant proposals. The Office of History & Archaeology (OHA) anticipated \$150,000 would be available to award. The maximum federal share was \$50,000, with a 60/40 match. The application deadline was October 13, 2023. OHA had a new Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program and was soliciting grants, due October 31st. Applicants could request from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Finally, there were two open seats on the HPC commission, and any interested individuals could submit a board application and letter of interest to the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Davis informed commissioners the Sitka National Historical Park Visitor Center, had submitted a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. They were providing 45 days for opportunity to comment on the application. Commissioners would need to set

a special meeting for discussion since the proposal had missed the cut-off for the public hearing notice. Davis would reach out to commissioners to set a day and time.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. Historic Preservation Plan.

Commissioner Pensley provided an update on the HPC plan. This included a proposed table of contents that the subcommittee would be finalizing. Commissioners agreed the changes looked good and thanked Pensley for all her work on the document.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

c. New Construction of a 7-plex at 750 Alice Loop

Davis introduced plans for new construction of a 7-plex at 750 Alice Loop. There would be seven one-bedroom and one-bath apartments constructed. Poulson explained this site was part of the former military base and there was an intact pillbox in the area. Commissioners determined there would be no impact to the historical landmark and recommend approval.

M/Poulson-S/Brady-Howard, moved to approve the recommendation for new construction of a 7-plex at 750 Alice Loop. Motion passed 3-2 by voice vote.

d. Demolition of structure at 105 Metlakatla Street

Davis introduced plans for demolition of 105 Metlakatla Street. The property owners were planning to build a one-story single-family home to live in. The current structure was deteriorating with rotten wood and a crumbling foundation. Commissioners discussed the history of the area including UAF Project Jukebox and signage located at the National Historical Park. The first motion failed to pass. Commissioners then created a new motion to inform the property owners of where to find history on the cottages and to recommend documentation and monitoring of the site if the owners moved forward with the demolition of the structure.

M/Poulson-S/Brady-Howard, moved to approve the recommendation of demolition at 105 Metlakatla Street. Motion failed 0-5 by roll call voice vote.

M/Poulson-S/Brady-Howard, moved to inform the owners of the history of the cottages on Metlakatla Street and if they demolished the structure at 105 Metlakatla Street, to document and monitor the site. Motion passed by 5-0 by voice vote.

e. 300 Harbor Drive – Sitka Woman’s Club nomination for the National Register of Historic Places

Davis introduced Sitka Woman’s Club nomination for the National Register of Historic Places. Anne Pollnow and Audrey Hudson were present to represent the Sitka Woman’s Club. Pollnow described the history of the building which was built in mid-1890s. It was a small wood-framed, one-story cottage with a large, landscaped yard. It was originally built as a dwelling and shop. While some of the exterior materials had been replaced or repaired, the alterations were completed with compatible materials and the building retains a majority of the features which convey a small-scale, wood-frame cottage. The

property was associated with events that had a significant contribution to history between 1951-1975. The Sitka Woman's Club was gifted the building in 1951 and over a period of 70 years was vital to the club's philanthropic and community work in Sitka. Commissioners discussed the request and agreed to provide a letter of support.

M/Poulson-S/Lucas, moved to approve the request to provide a letter of support for the Sitka Woman's Club nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):

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

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – Regular Monthly Meeting

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Littlefield, hearing no objection, adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM