

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 22, 2021

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held via Zoom from the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Molly Proue.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martin Gutoski, Matthew Reckard, Patricia Piersol, Amy Viltrakis, Kirsten Freeman and Molly Proue

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Cook, US Army Garrison, Alaska; Josh Reuther, UAF; Justin Cramb, UAF; Burr Neely, Statistical Research, Inc.; Jeanne Creamer, Friends of the SS Nenana; Holly McKinney, Cultural Resource Specialist, AKDOT&PF
Melissa Kellner, FNSB Staff Representative; Kristina Heredia, FNSB Planner and Laura Melotte, FNSB Recording Clerk

A. ROLL CALL

B. MESSAGES

1. Chairman's Comments

Ms. Proue thanked the Commission for being patient about not meeting during the pandemic.

2. Staff's Comments

Ms. Kellner introduced the guests at the meeting.

Ms. Kellner announced that the Mayors office did receive an application for the empty seat on this commission. She will continue to follow the Assembly agenda to see when this applicant will be going to the Assembly for approval of appointment.

Ms. Kellner spoke to the ongoing operating procedures at the borough due to COVID-19. More information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Heredia announced that elections of Chair and Vice-Chair will be held at the next meeting as it did not make the agenda for this meeting.

3. Citizen's Comments

None

4. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict

Ms. Proue stated that as she is a DOT employee, she can not participate in any DOT items.

C. *MINUTES

*Minutes of November 23, 2020

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Consent Agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on agenda. Consent Agenda items are not considered separately unless any Historic Commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

MOTION: Moved by **Ms. Peirsol**, seconded by **Mr. Reckard** that the Agenda be re-ordered to accommodate the guests who have joined the meeting this evening and approving the minutes of November 23, 2020 as presented.

VOTE: No objections

MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Updates on topics on the HPC Priorities List

Ms. Proue announced that the SHPO office has more staff than in the past. They have hired Katie Ringsmuth to be their new State Historian. Additionally, they are now taking applications for nominations to the National Register. **Ms. Proue** will keep the commission updated regarding nominating Pioneer Park to the National Register.

2. CIP and the SS Nenana

Ms. Proue commented that she received a draft RFP for this project last week for the selection committee to review. She stated that she has not had time to review it to date but will do so by the end of the week and forward comments to Leslie Gonzales, the borough Engineer for this project. In conclusion, this commission will have an opportunity to be involved in drafting the language for the final RFP for this project.

Ms. Peirsol queried if it was possible for Ms. Proue to provide the draft document to the rest of the commission so that all members of the commission can have an opportunity to provide comment. **Ms. Proue** commented that she is not sure if she can do that as she, individually, was selected to be on the review committee. **Ms. Kellner** added that at this point, such documents are confidential so as not to disrupt the RFP process. That is why the HPC appointed one commission member to be

on the review team.

Ms. Kellner stated that she will confirm with the project manager if the HPC can provide comments for the language of the draft RFP.

Ms. Peirsol commented that Mr. Reckard has produced a report of the repair work required and that the Friends of the SS Nenana have a letter or e-mail from the borough stating that they would like to include said report in the RFP.

Jeanne Creamer confirmed that Friends of the SS Nenana did send an e-mail with this request to the Mayors Office, the Assembly, Jim Williams, David Bredlie, Leslie Gonzales, Michael Bork, Donnie Hayes and Moll Proue this afternoon.

Mr. Reckard commented that David Bredlie told him that he would like to send said report out to people with the RFP.

Trish Schmidt offered to forward the report to anyone who wants a copy of it.

Ms. Peirsol requested a copy of the report. Ms. Kellner stated that once she receives the report, she will send it out.

Further discussion ensued regarding who would like to receive the report by Mr. Reckard.

Ms. Peirsol queried if Ms. Proue is allowed to converse with Mr. Reckard in the RFP process. **Ms. Proue** stated that she was not familiar with the rules of the borough and requested that Ms. Kellner find out the answer to this question. **Ms. Kellner** stated that she will e-mail the project manager to find the answer to this question.

Ms. Kellner recapped the CIP process and purpose for the commission.

Mr. Reckard commented that if he were to work with Ms. Proue on developing an FP, it would most likely disqualify him from being able to participate in any team that would submit a proposal.

Further discussion ensued with regards to the CIP and the process.

Mr. Gutoski queried if a Pioneer Park Commission was ever formed. **Ms. Kellner** replied that it is still "on hold."

3. Update from the Friends of the SS Nenana

Jeanne Creamer gave an update regarding educational and recreational programs that the Friends of the SS Nenana are interested in participating

with once the boat is opened back up to the public.

4. Bailey Bridge update

Ms. Proue commented about a video that was taken of the Bailey Bridge prior to it being dismantled. She further commented that she sent it to Ms. Kellner to distribute to the commission. She suggested that all commissioners take the time to view the video as it was quite interesting.

Ms. Peirsol stated that she did not have much to add to this discussion of the Bailey Bridge that was on Ft. Wainwright.

Ms. Peirsol did state that there are two additional Bailey Bridges in town. One is serving as the temporary pedestrian bridge over the Chena River on University Avenue. The other will serving as the temporary pedestrian bridge over the Chena River on Wendell Avenue.

Ms. Peirsol will report back as plans develop regarding the Ft. Wainwright Bailey Bridge.

5. Friends of Creamer's Field – Storage of Historic Dairy Hardware

Ms. Heredia commented that the Department of Community Planning has not received any communications regarding this topic.

Jeanne Creamer reported that the artifacts that Friends of Creamer's Field were concerned about have been removed and are stored safely until they can be displayed properly.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Minnie Street request for information from Burr Neely, Statistical Research, Inc.

Burr Neely addressed the commission with regards to this matter. He stated that his company, Statistical Research, Inc., has been retained by DOT to do a typical built environment inventory and evaluations of select properties within the boundaries of the Minnie Street improvement project. He gave a comprehensive overview of the work that he has performed to date on this project.

2. Chena Townsite archaeology field school presentation by Josh Reuther, UAF

Josh Reuther and **Justin Cramb** addressed the commission and gave a brief overview of this education opportunity. A question and answer period followed.

3. Fort Wainwright's proposed changes to its Operations & Maintenance Programmatic Agreement

Elizabeth Cook addressed the commission regarding this document.

Mr. Gutoski queried that if the commission decided it wanted to sign this document, what date would it have to be signed by. **Ms. Proue** clarified that the extension will have to be signed by March but the commission does not have to sign the extension. As long as the extension happens, this commission would have a year from that time to sign the Agreement. **Ms. Cook** further clarified that as a concurring party, this commission on the extension memo is not required.

4. Update on historic building projects

Ms. Peirsol reported that the Chena Building is sitting in the townsite of Chena. The Masonic Temple artifacts are still encased in storage at Summit Logistics.

5. Section 106 Projects

Ms. Heredia stated that the Department of Community Planning did not receive any Section 106 projects for the commission to review.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Pioneer Park Summer 2021

Ms. Heredia reported that this correspondence is what Pioneer Park expects to do in the summer of 2021.

2. National Archives news

Ms. Heredia reported that the archives that were originally in Anchorage were moved to Seattle. Now there is discussion of moving the artifacts further south to California. It is her understanding that Doyon, Ltd. and Tanana Chiefs Conference have filed a lawsuit to halt the move of the artifacts to California.

H. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Gutoski announced that he has been appointed to the board of the Tanana Yukon Historic Society.

Ms. Peirsol questioned if it was possible to get the Agenda packet sooner than the week before the meeting. **Ms. Kellner** commented that it may be possible to send the agenda well in advance as they are published well in advance in the NewsMiner.

Mr. Reckard commented that in preparing the report for the SS Nenana, Donnie Hayes was tremendously helpful and friendly and he appreciates that. However, he commented that the same is not true of Public Works.

Ms. Viltrakis was not able to comment as she lost connectivity and was not able to re-connect.

Ms. Freeman had no comments.

I. AGENDA SETTING

The commission determined which items would move forward to the next meeting and which items have been concluded.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

