

Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
Columbus Community Center
161 North Dickason Boulevard

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ruth Hermanson at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present Commissioners Altschwager, Ulrich, Hermanson, Gilbertson, Nichol, Kaland and Elling. Chair Hermanson announced that Recreation Director Meyer and Council Liaison Gray will not be able to attend and were excused.

Notice of open meeting: Chair Hermanson noted that the meeting agenda had been posted and distributed per State Statutes.

Citizen comments on agenda items: No comments.

Approve agenda: Motion by Kaland, second by Gilbertson, to approve the agenda as posted. The 2023 budget discussion was moved to the end of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve minutes from the Regular Meeting July 13, 2022: Motion by Gilbertson, second by Altschwager to approve the minutes as corrected at the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Altschwager presented the report as of August 10, 2022.

- Susan Stare Auditorium Fund (CD)		\$18,558.14
- Water Tower Fund	253474	\$ 3,304.80
- Mary Poser/ Former Columbus Auditorium Corporation	2502700 (CD)	\$30,512.58
- RestHaven Improvement	255362	\$57,435.34
- Façade Improvement Fund	255707	\$ 130.12
- Columbus Pavilion ADA Accessibility Fund	250968	\$ 8,755.60
- CHLPC Account	187450	\$33,819.56

Motion by Nichol, second by Kaland to accept the Treasurer's report as corrected at the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and take action on invoices/bills:

- Motion by Nichol, second by Ulrich to approve payment of \$600.00 from account 187450 to band for August 25 concert. Roll call vote approved 7-0.

Council Liaison Report: Council liaison Gray was not present at the meeting.

Update regarding the Pavilion Window Treatments project: Chair Hermanson noted that the CHLPC had recommended Home Expressions for the window treatments at the July 13 meeting. The Columbus Fire Chief asked if the shades were fire-resistant. Chair Hermanson confirmed with Home Expressions that the shades were fire-resistant. Chair Hermanson will request that this item be on the next available Council Committee of the Whole agenda for review and possible action.

RestHaven ADA Improvement Project review and call for action: The sub-committee held a zoom meeting on August 9th with the architect. They reviewed four preliminary plans and recommended one of these for additional design work. They will meet again on August 18. The sub-committee would like to have the restrooms be open only when the building is rented or for City-approved events. This direction would assist the sub-committee now in determining finishes and quality of fixtures in the remodeled restrooms. If the restrooms are open to the public during the day then the fixtures will need to be more hardened against vandalism, etc. The sub-committee is also recommending heat and air conditioning be added to the project to make the building usable year-round.

Significant discussion occurred regarding the restroom usage and coordination with rentals only. Some of the CHLPC members noted that there were public restrooms available at the swimming pool and also near the ball diamond.

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Gilbertson to recommend to the City Council that the building be open only for rentals or city functions to assist with design guidelines for the sub-committee.

Motion by Nichol, second by Kaland to amend the motion to add language specific to the restrooms being open for functions and to include signage directing to other restrooms in the park. Motion carried 6-1 (Elling no).

Amended motion by Ulrich, seconded by Gilbertson to recommend to the City Council that the restrooms in the RestHaven building be open only for rentals or city functions and that the City include signage directing to other restrooms in the park. Motion carried 6-1 (Elling no). Elling commented that he feels the restrooms should be designed to be open as they are now since we cannot predict if other restrooms will be available in the future.

Report from the Summer Concert Series committee: Chair Hermanson commented on the good turnout for the second concert. Altschwager reported that we had donations that night of \$268. The final concert in the series is Thursday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Local landmarks designation process and past CHLPC activities for local historic designations: There will be no further action on this topic until a new Historic Preservation Ordinance is adopted by the City Council.:

Discussion and action on updated Historic Preservation Ordinance: Elling noted that at the July meeting Liaison Gray indicated that the Council sub-committee may appreciate a list of recommendations and comments from the CHLPC to proceed with a revised draft Ordinance. The CHLPC commissioners agreed that Chair Hermanson and Secretary Elling would bring a report to the October CHLPC meeting for discussion and recommendation to the Ordinance sub-committee.

Report on the 2023 Calendar: Ulrich reported that the draft calendar is being started and she has sent out letters for sponsorships. She thanked commission member Gilbertson for visiting 22 new businesses in town and obtaining four new sponsorships from those visits.

Discussion on possible street paver donation. The sidewalk at 414 West Harrison Street has been replaced. Elling will contact the property owners for follow-up planning to obtain the bricks.

Discuss Old Hwy 73 steel Whitney Bridge: Chair Hermanson will contact the County to determine the status of the project.

Staff report: Rec Director Meyer was not present at the meeting.

Election of Vice-Chair for 2022-2023 term: Altschwager nominated Gilbertson for a term through May 2023, second by Kaland. Gilbertson agreed to serve through May, 2023 when new officers will be elected. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on special meeting for orientation of new members. The group agreed to have a presentation from Ulrich on the materials in the CHLPC office at City Hall. Also written reports from Treasurer Altschwager on the various CHLPC funds and from Chair Hermanson on the past activities of the CHLPC. The group will start at the City Hall clerk's office at 4:00 on September 21, 2022.

Discussion on use of budgeted money for 2022: Chair Hermanson reviewed the current budget expenditures and remaining work proposed for 2022.

Discussion and action on any attendees for Wisconsin Historic Preservation webinars or Wisconsin Historic Preservation Commission 2022 convention in October. Chair Hermanson distributed the materials on the October virtual convention and encouraged the CHLPC members to attend as there is sufficient money in the City budget for these registrations.

Discussion on recommendations to the Columbus Community Development Authority (CDA) for America Recovery Plan Act funds: Chair Hermanson reviewed the information from the Columbus CDA and the deadline of August 25, 2022. The commission reviewed several projects and determined that they would request one major project to focus on for the grant.

The group recommends estimates of \$50,000 to remove vermiculite from the Pavilion, \$35,000 in costs for installation of new insulation, and \$100,000 for installation of new air conditioning and replacement heating systems in the building. The group also anticipates providing up to \$45,000 in fundraising to offset the ARPA monies.

Motion by Elling, second by Ulrich to complete an application for removal of the vermiculite insulation, installation of new insulation and HVAC at the Pavilion in Fireman's Park. Motion carried unanimously.

CHLPC Priority projects: Due to the late hour this discussion was postponed until the September meeting.

Lanyards for members: Due to the late hour this discussion was postponed until the September meeting.

Discussion and action on 2023 CHLPC budget request: Motion by Elling, second by Altschwager to request the same monies from the City as the 2022 adopted budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting date Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion from Altschwager, second by Gilbertson, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Henry J. Elling, CHLPC Secretary