

Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
105 North Dickason Boulevard

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

Attendance: Commissioners Altschwager, Hermanson, Elling, Kaland, Nichols and Gilbertson. Commissioner Ulrich was excused. Economic Development Director Mike Kornmann, Administrator Amundson and Mayor Hammer were also present.

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

Approve agenda: Motion by Nichols, second by Altschwager to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Commissioner Gilbertson noted that the Columbus Historical Society has purchased the building at 152 West James Street. They will be completing façade work to include painting trim, a new sign, stormwindow replacement and some minor trim replacement. Commissioner Nichols announced that she will be resigning from the CHLPC effective in April, 2025 due to the additional commitments from the Chamber of Commerce and her new business.

Minutes of November 20, 2024

Motion by Elling, second by Kaland to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report: as of January 15, 2025:

- Susan Stare Auditorium Fund (CD)		\$ 19,148.88
- Water Tower Fund	253474	\$ 10,625.02
- Mary Poser/ Former Columbus Auditorium Corporation	2502700 (CD)	\$ 32,307.87
- RestHaven Improvement	255362	\$ 98,868.65
- Façade Improvement Fund	255707	\$ 132.36
- Columbus Pavilion ADA Accessibility Fund	250968	\$ 4,015.93
- CHLPC Account	187450	\$ 32,567.71

Motion by Elling, second by Kaland to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

State Grant for Creation of a Local Downtown Historic District:

Commissioner Nichols indicated that the application had been filed prior to the December deadline. There will be an announcement during February on awards. If Columbus is awarded, the City Council will need to vote to accept the award. The project identified was support for public awareness, notices and preparation of a local designation Downtown Columbus District application.

Summer Concert Series:

Chair Hermanson identified the 2025 dates as June 19, July 17 and August 14. Mark Croft will be assisting to identify and contract with the performers. Estimated cost of \$750-\$900 per "band".

Locally Designated Downtown District: The original National Register nomination survey identified 70 properties for inclusion in the District. Commissioner Nichols noted that the original survey had been updated several years ago, so the documentation is current for designation of the district. Commissioners Gilbertson and Elling to review and report at a future meeting.

Fundraising status for Resthaven: Chair Hermanson noted that the subcommittee was working on fundraising letter to be sent to local residents and businesses. The subcommittee was in the process of combining several lists to conclude a mailing list for the letter. Administrator Amundson confirmed that no new approval was needed from the City Council to continue with the fundraising efforts.

Director Kornmann announced that he had submitted the Vibrant Spaces Grant application on behalf of the City and CHLPC for the Resthaven project. He included a request of \$150,000. This would need to be matched by the City, most likely using CHLPC monies. There is no timeline for this award announcement.

Designating historic sites and structures:

Commissioners discussed the potential to start with a City-owned building for completion of the process and understanding of the procedures and information necessary in future proposals. City representatives noted that the Whitney Chapel is owned by the Cemetery Board, not the City of Columbus. Other possible sites discussed included the Chapel Street Watertower, City Hall and home at 154 South Spring Street. The group would like to review the existing packet for designation application.

Goals and tasks for 2025:

The group acknowledged the following major efforts for 2025

- Completing a local landmark designation
- Summer concert series participation
- Erecting posts for mid-century modern district
- On-going project promotion for Resthaven restoration
- Downtown District designation if CLG grant is obtained and accepted by City Council

Motion by Altschwager, second by Nichols to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Henry J. Elling, CHLPC Secretary