



Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ruth Hermanson at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall committee room.

Commissioners Altschwager, Hermanson, Gilbertson, Elling (Mayor Hammer arrived at 4:10). Dave Bennett and Kendra Riddle (Finance Director) were also present. Commissioners Nagle and Ulrich were absent and excused.

Notice of Open Meeting

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

Approval of agenda

Motion by Gilbertson, second by Altschwager, to approve the January 27 agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Approve minutes from previous meeting(s)

Consider and take action to approve the minutes of previous meeting(s).

Motion by Gilbertson, second Gilbertson to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments (3 minute limit per person)

None presented.

New Business

1. Consideration and possible action regarding financial reports and invoices.

Motion by Elling, second by Hammer to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Elling, second by Gilbertson, to approve payment of \$785.00 (from Account #255362) to H&E Electric as a partial draw on the project to install electric power to the main door at the Rest Haven. Roll call vote 5 -0 to approve.

2. Presentation and discussion regarding the City's fiscal policies and procedures.

Director Riddle asked the Commissioners in general and the CHLPC Treasurer specifically to send the Finance office the monthly treasurer's report early in the month so that the City can include in their monthly statements. She also noted that materials for the annual audity report can be sent at any time by February 15.

3. Consider and take action to determine 2026 spending priorities and overall historic preservation goals.

Chair Hermanson noted that the City Council and CHLPC had requested notations on the group's 2026 work program. The commission discussion on January 2027 identified the following:

- Brass plaque installation downtown
 - Yard sign installations from walking tour notes
 - Design Guideline confirmation/update
 - Start process for designation of a local downtown historic district
 - Participation in City-sponsored Independence Day parade float?
4. Consider and take action regarding Rest Haven maintenance and upgrades.
Chair Hermanson announced that the City Council had authorized expenditures up to \$25,000 for the front door replacement. She will be contacting Zuehrn for final ordering and coordination with potential installers.
 5. Consider and take action regarding historic recognition of local buildings and site, specifically implementing fixed placards.
Plaques for downtown properties have been delivered. Next steps include written permission slips from property owners, send letters to these properties to set installation time, get final opinion from City Attorney on potential liability waivers.
 6. Discussion of the feasibility of local historic designations of the Fireman's Park Pavilion and Rest Haven.
The CHLPC unanimously requested that City staff prepare materials for consideration of loan designation on the Pavilion at Fireman's Park and Rest Haven building at Fireman's Park. Specifically, this designation is NOT to include the entire park property as a historic site.
 7. Consider and take possible action regarding the 2026 Summer Concert Series.
No co-sponsors had yet appeared for this series of events. The Commission will decide at the February meeting on a GO / NO GO for 2026 season.

Adjourn

Motion by Altschwager, second by Hammer to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, February 17, 2026, and March 24 at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Henry J. Elling, CHLPC Secretary