

Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Columbus City Hall, 105 N Dickason Boulevard

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ruth Hermanson at 4:03 p.m. in the City Hall committee room.

Attendance: Commissioners Altschwager, Hermanson, Gilbertson, Nagle, Ulrich, and Mayor Hammer. Mike Kornmann was also present. Commissioner Elling arrived at 4:10.

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

Approve agenda: Motion by Altschwager, second by Nagle, to approve the September 24 agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes of August 27, 2025: Motion by Nagle, second by Altschwager to approve. Motion carried 6-0

Public Comment: Ben Swathmore, 448 West Mill Street, appeared to speak on the 103 North Ludington property. He noted that the structure was 170 years old and may be eligible for funding for repairs and maintenance work as a designated property within a National Register and State Register District. He wondered if the City could re-direct the likely \$230,000 potential demolition costs to preservation.

Financial Report, Payment of Invoices and Bills: Motion by Hammer, second by Altschwager to approve payment of \$79.90 to Jan Ulrich for postage, from account #255362. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Rest Haven Project Presentation: The planning group contacted 11 potential contractors and received responses from two. Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Hammer moved to proceed with Zuern's proposal for the door-only purchase and up to \$3,000 for installation. Second by Nagle. Motion carried unanimously. This recommendation will be forwarded to Administrator Amundson for review and determination on staff approval or Council action. We will still need SHPO approval, an electrician and an installation contractor.

2026 Budget request: Commissioner Gilbertson reviewed proposals from three firms to provide historical oval placards for placement on downtown commercial buildings. After lengthy discussion, she moved and Commissioner Nagle seconded a motion to purchase up to 27 oval placards for commercial buildings downtown, from Franklin Bronze company's September 9th proposal. Each placard would cost \$149, for a total of \$4,023 (plus shipping), to be funded by the City CHLPC allotment. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Ulrich abstained).

Columbus Area Endowment Grant application: Commissioner Ulrich reported that she mailed the request on August 29th but the application did not arrive in time for consideration.

Discussion on potential activities in support of US 250th Anniversary in 2026. This is the first time discussed by the commissioners and may be on future agendas.

Motion by Nagle, second by Altschwager to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Henry J. Elling, CHLPC Secretary