



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Held at Harrigan Centennial Hall

330 Harbor Drive

January 26, 2018 12 PM

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: Chair Littlefield called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

Present: Littlefield, Pollnow (phone), Dittmar (left 1:20 PM), Sopow, Sam (arrived 12:20 PM)

Absent: Poulson (excused), Saline (excused), Moses (excused), Bean – Assembly liaison, Eisenbeisz – Assembly liaison alternate

Staff: Samantha Pierson

Other City Staff: Dan Tadic (Municipal Engineer), Kelli Cropper (Project Manager), Stephen Weatherman (Senior Engineer)

Public: Richard Wein

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M-Sopow/S-Dittmar moved to approve the agenda. Motion passed 4-0.

III. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

IV. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Lincoln Street Improvements Project
CBS Public Works

Dan Tadic explained the scope of the project to include pavement and storm drain improvements. Tadic described this as a maintenance project and coming into compliance with ADA. Stephen Weatherman stated that the top two inches of pavement is to be replaced. Weatherman outlined the funding sources. Weatherman announced the public meeting to be held the following week. Tadic stated that night work and work after the end of the cruise ship season are possibilities to reduce disturbing businesses. Pollnow asked if the project is solely funded by city dollars, and Tadic stated yes. Pollnow stated concern for the usage of fill and the possible revelation of archaeological findings. Tadic stated that the only area that will feasibly reach dirt is at the curb cuts and storm drain replacement, as road work will only replace the top two inches. Sam stated that he has been involved with removal and cleaning of fill with archaeological

remains on Japonski Island, and the Blarney Stone was originally located on the site in question. Sam stated this is a previously disturbed site. Sam would like a government to government conversation regarding the development of lower Lincoln Street. Tadic clarified that the current project ends at the traffic signal but may extend further down Lincoln Street in the future. Sam spoke to the history of Crescent Harbor area. Tadic clarified if Sam had concern with the area of the current project, and Sam stated that the area has been disturbed. Pollnow stated that she is aware of discoveries made in the project area. Tadic stated that in his experience with state funded infrastructure projects, SHPO consultation is required but in recent history, the office has determined that the proposed project sites are already disturbed. Weatherman discussed the city's history of working with archaeological monitoring. Sam stated that a historic well was covered up on Lincoln Street in front of Harry Race and the Historic Preservation Commission allowed the city to fill in the site so long as the well was covered. Sam stated interest in recognizing this site with a fountain. Pollnow stated that there was an old boardwalk discovered below Seward Street. Tadic proposed bringing the 65% design plans back to the commission for consideration in a few months.

M-Sopow/S-Dittmar moved to postpone consideration of the request for review of the Lincoln Street Improvements Project until the 65% design plans are available for consideration. Motion passed 5-0.

b) Wayfinding Sign Project
CBS Public Works

Kelli Cropper gave a history of the project and the need for wayfinding signage. Cropper shared a sample of the proposed sign material, displayed a sample sign, and showed the intended sign locations. Most signs will be posted on existing light poles. Tadic explained ADA constraints. There will be 42 signs including 2 kiosks. Sopow suggested writing "Castle Hill" in Tlingit. Sopow stated that the colors look indigenous but the site listings do not. Cropper stated that the QR codes offer opportunity for including Tlingit names and historical information. Sam stated that he supports the project and stated that Harbor Drive has always been difficult for tourists to navigate. Sam stated that the Orthodox Church used to be at Maksoutoff Street and there should be some interpretive signage there. Sam encouraged collaboration with the STA Cultural Committee. Sam stated that many tourists are interested in Princess Maksoutoff's grave but it can be difficult to find. Cropper stated that interpretive signage is different than wayfinding signage, but interpretive signage is important. Cropper stated that some of the signs do point visitors to Princess Maksoutoff's grave. Pollnow asked why there are so many wayfinding signs if they don't include interpretation. Tadic stated that the intention is that visitors can see signs beyond where they stand. Cropper stated that people enter at different points, and without the signs, people think that downtown ends at the Cathedral and do not continue further. Pollnow stated that signs can be distractions from historic properties, and stated that there are proposed signs all

around the Cathedral. Pollnow stated that the signs seem a bit big and is concerned about view sheds. Cropper stated that the signs of concern are mounted on existing light poles with banners and planters. Tadic stated that the originally proposed signs were much larger. Tadic stated that the proposed signs are 1 foot wide. Sam stated that the city has sign restrictions and he would like the Planning Commission to consider the project. Sam would like to see the signs tweaked to blend in with the surroundings. Cropper clarified that the colors and branding went through a lengthy public process. Sopow stated that she would like to see some Tlingit on the signs. Sam stated that a ship brings up Native elders who come for the culture and stated that our tourists are diverse. Sam stated that any request for Tlingit representation on the signs should come from the tribe. Cropper suggested adding on separate signs in Tlingit language. Tadic stated that he believed the tribe was involved in the original public process, and the addition of Tlingit language would require the signs to become larger.

Richard Wein stated appreciation for hearing the discussion.

M-Pollnow/S-Sam moved to support the Wayfinding Sign Project. Motion passed 3-1.

VI. COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION – No Motions May Be Made

Sam apologized to being late and welcomed Wein to the meeting. Sam stated that this may possibly be his last meeting. Sam stated that he was a founding member of the commission. Sam stated that he was appointed to the commission by STA and ultimately answers to them. Sam stated that he sees polarization between the community and the tribe, and believes there have been conflicts of interest on the commission. Sam stated that he did not pursue the cemetery rezone project in order to make money but to identify graves and rezone the cemetery. Sam has concerns for naming public buildings. Sam stated that he was disappointed that the election last month occurred right before the end of his term and he feels disrespected. If he is reappointed, he would like to consider being an officer, but it's already been decided. Sam stated that he didn't know about historic preservation conferences this past year that other commissioners attended. Sam stated that he enjoys working on the commission and would like to see improved communication.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):

(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6 pm **Harrigan Centennial Hall**)
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – Regular Monthly Meeting

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

M-Littlefield/S-Sopow moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 PM. Motion passed 4-0.

Attest:
Samantha Pierson, Planner I