



# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

*Coast Guard City, USA*

## **SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Regular Monthly Meeting

Held at Harrigan Centennial Hall

330 Harbor Drive

June 13, 2018 6 PM

**Minutes**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** Acting Chair Pollnow called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.  
Present: Acting Chair Pollnow, Commissioner Poulson, Commissioner Sam, and Commissioner Sopow (teleconference line); and Assembly Liaison, Benjamin Miyasato  
Absent: Dittmar, Littlefield (excused), Douglas (alternate for Sam)  
Staff: Michael Scarcelli, Director of Planning and Community Development Department.
- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
  - a) M – Poulson / S – Sam to approve agenda. Motion passed 4-0
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a) M – Poulson / S – Sam to postpone approving minutes until July 11<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting. Motion passed 4-0.
- IV. **GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD**
  - a) None.
- V. **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**
  - a) Commissioners:
    - a. Commissioner Poulson reported that the Metlakatla Street property that is listed as a historic property and one of the last model cottages of the Sheldon Jackson students is for sale.
      - i. There is an open house at the Sitka Sound Science Center July 3, 2018 from approximately 4-530 p.m. to mark the occasion of the Brady Log Haul in front of the Mill Building.
  - b) Liaison, Assembly Member Miyasato:
    - a. Miyasato reported on Title 18 proposed changes as a means to bring in revenue outside of raising taxes and to make sure the City is open for business and moving towards affordable housing development.
    - b. Miyasato reported on rate increases and that such increases are not the preferred option, but with the need due to aging infrastructure, such as the harbors and waste water, rates need to catch up with maintenance expenses.
    - c. Miyasato reported on use of the Fisheries Enhancement Fund and that the entire fund will be used.
    - d. Miyasato reported on the Pittman Robertson fund, which will allow up to 2

recreational cabins to be built for community use with a 75/25 matching grant opportunity where 75% will be paid for. Return on investments appears to be 5-7 years, and it will protect healthy activities.

## **VI. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW**

- a) Sheldon Jackson Campus – 801 Lincoln Street – installation of four interpretative displays**
  - a.** Rebecca Poulson presented the project for review to seek input on the interpretative signage projects “voices.” R. Poulson reviewed the four signage displays and their focal content and location. Project staff are meeting with elders, historians, ANB president, and STA Cultural Committee and will update after that input. Commissioner Poulson asked about timeline and R. Poulson indicated this project was more complex than originally anticipated and will take more time.
  - b.** Commissioner Sam told a story about the mislabeled ‘Blarney Stone’ that is seen in one of the proposed signage displays. This stone is currently found along the Crescent Harbor park. This stone is a ‘cornerstone’ of the Sheldon Jackson College. The stone has a story predating the Kiks.ádi and was used to mark/commemorate the land for the benefit of children and young people and that it would never be taken away. To sum, the story of the stone, from ancient Raven times, tells of an elder who killed children upon this stone, which was found near Puppy Creek (next to Saint Peter’s by-the-sea Episcopal Church). The people had attempted to disguise their children as puppies to avoid them being taken and killed. Eventually, the people rallied and killed the elder and also sent out warriors to kill all other monsters, which connects this story to other stories such as stories about Sugarloaf Mountain, Herring Rock, Indian River and Owl Rock, and others.
  - c.** Additional discussion occurred about the original Sage Building and its function as a powerhouse for Sitka, petroglyphs (stone in tree), the return of 13 original natives that attended the school as orphans in its early days, and possibility about relocating the ‘blarney stone’ to a preferred location with its proper Tlingit name.
  - d.** Overall, the commission discussed the sensitive, difficult, and important project this signage displays introduces. While it is a sensitive topic, it is a much needed project and a worthy one. The Commission thanked Polson for er work on this project.
  - e.** M – Poulson / S – Sam to approve the interpretative display (signage) project. Motion passed 4-0
- b) Ken Helem – 737 Alice Loop – building permit to develop new residence**
  - a.** Scarcelli introduced the project, its location, and the fact that is a previously disturbed archeological resource. This site has already been approved for development through the subdivision process. Scarcelli briefly mentioned that another item on tonight’s agenda and in the future will focus on how subdivisions get reviewed to assure HPC gets a chance to review at the early stages so as to avoid piecemeal review of every grading permit after the subdivision process. The grading permit is for the purpose of developing a new residential unit. No other issues were identified except that the AHRS is not as detailed as it could be as to location of cultural or historic resources.

