

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
Historic Preservation Commission  
December 7, 2021  
5:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held Tuesday, December 7, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

**ROLL CALL**

There were present appearing telephonically:

Amy Viltrakis	Matthew Reckard
Patricia Peirsol, Vice-Chair	Molly Proue, Chair

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Alexis Fackeldey, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk  
Melissa Kellner, Long Range Planner  
Leslie Gonzalez, Project Manager  
David Bredlie, Public Works Director  
Jonathan Shambare, Design and Construction Manager  
Marko Stepovich, Engineer  
Trish DeNardo Schmidt, Friends of S.S. Nenana  
Jeanne Creamer, Friends of S.S. Nenana

Absent

Martin Gutoski

**MESSAGES**

1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

NONE

**MESSAGES - continued**

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

Chair Proue passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Peirsol and disclosed a potential conflict of interest on any items for the Department of Transportation as she works for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Vice-Chair Proue ruled a conflict of interest did exist, excused her from any of those items and passed the gavel back to the Chair Proue.

Commissioner Reckard disclosed a potential conflict of interest regarding the S.S. Nenana as he is under contract with the Fairbanks North Star Borough to help with the restoration project. Chair Proue ruled he did have a conflict of interest and would be excused from any items involving the S.S. Nenana.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

PEIRSOL, moved to approve the agenda.  
Seconded by VILTRAKIS

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

Yeses: Reckard, Viltrakis, Peirsol, Proue

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

**MINUTES**

1. Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes from November 2, 2021.

*Clerk's note: This item was removed from the consent agenda.*

Commissioner Reckard asked for a number of edits to the draft minutes.

Commissioner Reckard requests that the draft stating "Commissioner Reckard stated he did not believe the Historic Preservation Commission had the authority to make decisions," be revised to read, "... authority to establish policies or make decisions for the Borough."

Commissioner Reckard requests that the draft stating "Commissioner Reckard does not feel the Historic Preservation Commission has powers to make decisions that affect the local government," be revised to read, "Commissioner Reckard does not feel the Historic Preservation Commission has authority to establish policies or make decisions for the

**MINUTES - continued**

Borough, but rather has only the authority to advise or make recommendations to the Borough.”

Commissioner Reckard requests that the draft stating, “Commissioner Reckard would like to have a presentation regarding the duties, powers, and authorities of the commission,” be revised to read, “Commissioner Reckard would like to know what authority the commission has, if any, to establish policies for or make decisions for the Borough.”

Commissioner Reckard requests that the draft stating, “Commissioner Reckard state he did not question the political implications from a lack of transparency, be revised to read, “Commissioner Reckard stated he did not question that there could be political repercussions from a lack of transparency.”

Commissioner Reckard requests that the draft stating, “The Atlanta Braves won the Major League Baseball World Series in 2021,” be revised to read, “The Atlanta Braves won the Major League Baseball World Series during the Historic Preservation Commission meeting in 2021.”

PEIRSOL, moved to approve the minutes as  
Seconded by VILTRAKIS amended.

**VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

Yeses: Peirsol, Reckard, Viltrakis, Proue

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

**REPORTS**

1. Reports and Communications to the Commission by Community Planning Staff

Melissa Kellner, Long Range Planner, noted that although she had received an update on Fort Greely cultural resources it is outside the commission’s purview. Ms. Kellner provided an update on the vacant commission seats and stated she will present information regarding the scope of the commission’s duties and powers once available.

2. Report by Community Planning Staff on the National Historic Act Project List

Ms. Kellner did not provide any comments.

## **REPORTS - continued**

Chair Proue provided an update on the National Register nomination for Pioneer Park.

Vice-Chair Peirsol updated the commission on the Bailey Bridge Reconstruction project.

Vice-Chair Peirsol stated she believed the house on Seventh will be demolished.

Trish DeNardo Schmidt, Friends of S.S. Nenana, asked who would be responsible for demolishing the house and Vice-Chair Peirsol responded she did not know.

Commissioner Viltrakis spoke on her efforts setting up a local Girl Scout museum and the presentation she had given to local youths.

Vice-Chair Peirsol provided a status update on the Chena Building.

### 3. Report by Patricia Peirsol on the USAG Alaska Cultural Resources Working Group

Vice-Chair Peirsol updated the commission on points of discussion from the working group meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Report on the S.S. Nenana Project at Pioneer Park by the Department of Public Works

David Bredlie, Public Works Director, introduced Jonathan Shambare, Design and Construction Manager; Leslie Gonzalez, Project Manager; and Marko Stepovich, Engineer. Mr. Stepovich provided a presentation on the S.S. Nenana Project at Pioneer Park.

Vice-Chair Peirsol praised the presentation and was pleased the construction project was underway.

Vice-Chair Peirsol asked what building code is being used for the reconstruction.

Mr. Stepovich stated the project was following the City of Fairbank's recommendations. Mr. Stepovich also stated the project is using the International Building Code and the International Existing Building Code. Mr. Stepovich also explained the reasoning behind emergency lighting.

Vice-Chair Peirsol asked about the City of Fairbank's building department's scope of involvement.

Mr. Stepovich provided the city's reasoning for what codes are currently being enforced.

## **NEW BUSINESS - continued**

Vice-Chair Peirsol wondered if there was any information that could be given to the commission regarding the building codes.

Mr. Shambare provided more information regarding the building codes and the challenges presented by the uniqueness of the building with a focus on safety.

Mr. Stepovich further elaborated on building code regulations.

Ms. DeNardo Schmidt stated there is a historical building code for boats and that has been distributed to the city.

Chair Proue and Vice-Chair Peirsol thanked the staff for their presentation.

*Clerk's Note: Commissioner Reckard left the virtual dais.*

2. Consideration and approval of a letter of support for the Phase II S.S. Nenana Project.

There was discussion on whether a letter of support would still be valuable to the Friends of the S.S. Nenana. The general agreement was that it would be.

*Clerk's Note: There was a motion made by Vice-Chair Peirsol to compose a general letter of support for the S.S. Nenana Project. It was seconded by Commissioner Viltrakis, but the motion was abandoned due to lack of quorum on this item.*

Ms. Kellner provided the timeline for the Capital Improvement Project.

*Clerk's Note: Commissioner Reckard returned to the virtual dais.*

## **EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

NONE

## **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Proue asked for agenda items for the next meeting. At this time no items were added to the next meeting agenda.

Vice-Chair Proue thanked staff for updating the October 6, 2021 minutes.

Chair Proue spoke of the new applicant for the commission's vacant at-large seat.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Historic Preservation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.