



Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:06pm by Gilbertson. A quorum of members in attendance included Altschwager, Gilbertson, Hammer, Hermanson, and Ulrich. Staff liaison Bennett, and Alder Rostad were present.

Notice of Open Meeting

It was noted that the meeting was posted according to law.

Approval of agenda

Hermanson motioned to approve the agenda as presented; Altschwager seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Approve minutes from previous meeting(s)

Consider and take action to approve the meeting minutes from May 27, 2026

Hermanson motioned to approve as presented, the meeting minutes from May 27, 2026; Ulrich seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comments (3 minute limit per person)

Ulrich asked if the new stairs on the Pavilion are going to be painted. It was confirmed that they are in process of curing prior to painting.

New Business

1. Consider and take action regarding financial reporting and payments

Gilbertson noted that her reimbursement check had not arrived yet and emailed the City's Finance Director to reissue the check.

Altschwager presented the June financial report and highlighted the Rest Haven and HLPC General Fund accounts. Altschwager noted that interest was not added yet to the accounts.

There was discussion regarding the posting of the donations from the concert series and confusion on the layout of the current report for revenues and expenditures. Bennett will provide an updated report for the August meeting.

Hammer motioned to approve the financial report; Hermanson seconded. There was no additional discussion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

2. Discussion of updates to the Rest Haven renovation project.

Bennett and Hammer had no updates to present to the Commission regarding the status of the Rest Have project. The Commission would like to see progress and at least replace just the front doors. Hammer will talk to the City Administrator and Bennett will verify if the building needs to be ADA as there is conflicting information. Bennett was asked to see if the Public Works and Utilities Director could attend an HLPC meeting. There were additional questions regarding fundraising for

the Rest Haven, in particular the calendars and how that would work if a proposed Friends of Columbus group were to become a primary fundraising arm for City projects. Hammer and staff were confident that any currently designated funds won't end up in a general fund and additional funds would be assigned to their proper designations.

3. Discussion regarding the potential local historic designation of the Fireman's Park Complex, located at 1049 Park Ave, benefits of Certified Local Government (CLG) status, and how local historic designation relates to State and National historic designation.

The Commission and staff presented its efforts and updated information to Alder Rostad in the hopes of getting the local historic designation of Fireman's Park back on the Council agenda. An updated application map that was taken from the national historic registry application highlighted a smaller area that includes the wall, Pavilion, and Rest Haven along with the green space between them and an area that currently includes the playground near the Rest Haven. Bennett differentiated between local historic designation and Certified Local Government (CLG) status and the benefits between the two. Bennett provided a comparison sheet that highlighted the differences between local, state, and national historic designation. Rostad noted that the new map and chart answered his questions and was receptive in bringing the item back to Council.

Bennett will verify the addressing of the buildings in Fireman's Park, reach out to the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the 4-year check-in for CLG status, and share his May 5th Council notes with Gilbertson and Hermanson.

HLPC will review the updated application and make any presentation adjustments at its next meeting in July.

The Commission plans to have Rostad bring the topic to a Council meeting in August.

4. Debrief of the June 17 concert and consider and take action regarding planning for the July 15 concert in the 2026 Summer Concert Series

Gilbertson recapped the June 17th summer concert. About 50 people attended due to inclement weather, however \$200 of beer was sold along with the Legion selling out its food offerings.

5. Update on the progress of the downtown historic placards

Gilbertson noted that most of the buildings along James Street have received and/or installed the bronze historical recognition placards. The Cage has not installed due to difficulty in placement. It was noted that the former Cercis building owner declined the placard and the Kurth building owner needed some additional questions answered regarding the program.

6. Consider items for future agendas

Rest Haven progress and the Fireman's Park local historic designation topics will be continued at the next meeting along with discussion regarding 2027 budget, zoning code rewrite, and yard sign purchase.

It was requested that Pavilion storm damage be included at the next meeting.

Adjourn

Gilbertson motioned to adjourn the meeting; Altschwager seconded. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.

** These minutes will be approved at a future meeting and may be amended. These minutes are respectfully submitted by David Bennett, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator **