



Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ruth Hermanson at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall committee room.

Commissioners Altschwager, Hermanson, Gilbertson, Elling, Mayor Hammer, Nagle. David Bennett was also present. Commissioner Ulrich was absent and excused.

Notice of Open Meeting

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

Approval of agenda

Motion by Hammer, second by Gilbertson, to approve the February 17 agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Approve minutes from previous meeting(s)

Consider and take action to approve the minutes of previous meeting(s).

Minutes of January 27 (no December 2025 meeting): Motion by Gilbertson, second by Altschwager to approve. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments (3 minute limit per person)

None presented.

New Business

1. Consideration and possible action regarding financial reports and invoices

Altschwager presented the January financial report. Activity included a 1/14 bank correction for an uncashed cashier's check and \$1000 deposit for Rest Haven from the Gilbertsons. There were deposits of \$275 from Ulrich and the \$750 from the 2025 room tax grant reimbursement. Expenditures included \$785 withdrawal for H&E Security electric draw. It was noted that \$2,400 has not been allocated to a line item from previous years and the development of a new spreadsheet to track finances could be presented at the next meeting.

Motion by Hammer to accept the report as presented and a second by Nagle. No additional discussion, the motion was carried by roll call vote 6-0.

2. Discuss and take possible actions regarding 2026 spending priorities and goals

Chair Hermanson noted that the City Council and CHLPC had requested notations on the group's 2026 work program. The commission final recommendation included the following items:

- Rest Haven improvements
- Brass plaque installation downtown
- Yard sign installations from walking tour notes

3. Consider and take action regarding historic preservation fundraising efforts and opportunities, specifically the calendar project

Chair Hermanson announced that Commission Ulrich has agreed to complete the 2027 historic calendar, with a Fire Department theme. There will not be a fundraising letter in 2026 as we need to show progress on the Rest Haven project before asking for more funding.

4. Consider and take action to begin the process of local historic designation of Fireman's Park, 1049 Park Ave.

The commissioners requested Mr. Bennett to begin the collection of information to designate the entire park as a historic site. Hope to have an initial draft at the March 2026 meeting.

5. Consider and take action to begin preparing for the 2026 Summer Concert Series

Recreation Director Meyers appeared on behalf of the City Administration with an offer to co-sponsor the concert series in 2026. The City Administration expects to take over the project as a Recreation activity in 2027, with the CHLPC then as a co-sponsor.

The group discussed the following topics with Director Meyers:

- Chamber of Commerce assistance with insurance
- Recreational immunity may apply now that the City is involved directly
- Possible coordination with the public spaces committee
- Bands will still be coordinated by Mark Croft for 2026
- Wednesday night concerts in June 17, July 15, August 12 2026

Motion by Gilbertson, second by Altschwager, to move forward with the City of Columbus Recreation Department as a co-sponsor for 2026. Motion carried. This will be final season of direct involvement in the concerts by the CHLPC.

6. Consider and take action regarding Rest Haven upgrades and maintenance

Chair Hermanson proposed an alternative plan to relocate the accessible entrance to one of the side doors, thus removing the need for more complicated doorway at the main entrance. Bennett reported that we are currently at approximately \$24,000 in expenses, where the Council has approved up to \$25,000. Chair Hermanson also noted that we had received a bid of \$404 for two window screens from Zuehrn.

After significant discussion the commissioners requested that this revision be brought with more details to the March 24th meeting.

Motion by Hammer, second by Gilbertson, to order the two window screens from Zuehrn at a cost of \$404.21, with funds taken from Account #255362. Roll call vote approved 6 – 0.

7. Consider and take action regarding local historic recognition activities, specifically addressing a damaged district sign and implementation of the bronze placards and yard signs

Plaques for downtown properties have been delivered. The commission will coordinate with the Columbus Historical Society for contact with the property owners and actual installation. The commissioners will not be participating in this portion of the project due to concerns from the City Attorney.

The yard signs for the walking tour sites will be delivered to homeowners with a request to install in the yard of the homes. The intent is not to mount the signs on the actual homes, but in the yard of the property.

Adjourn

Motion by Altschwager, second by Nagle to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

NEXT MEETINGS: TUESDAY, March 24 at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall.

These minutes will be approved at a future meeting and may be amended and are respectfully submitted by Henry J. Elling, CHLPC Secretary