



Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Nagle at 4:00pm. A quorum of commissioners in attendance included Altschwager, Gilbertson, Nagle, and Ulrich. Hermanson and Hammer were excused. Staff liaison Bennett was present.

Notice of Open Meeting

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

Approval of agenda

Gilbertson motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Altschwager. There was no discussion and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Approve minutes from previous meeting(s)

Consider and take action to approve the meeting minutes from June 24, 2026

Gilbertson motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented from June 24, 2026; seconded by Ulrich. During discussion, Ulrich asked about having the Director of Public Works / Utilities to provide an update about the Rest Haven project. Bennett had asked, but the Director of Public Works / Utilities was not able to make the meeting and Bennett will ask again. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comments (3 minute limit per person)

Altschwager had a question about how the City's Recreation Department will handle the 2027 summer concerts under new leadership. Bennett noted that the department still intends to handle the concerts and that the City Admin is interim director until a replacement is found. Ulrich had delivered letters to the 161 Building and needed amend them. Bennett will get them to HLPC mailbox.

New Business

1. Consider and take action regarding financial reporting and payments

Bennett presented the new version of the finance statement and noted that the Finance Director is training staff on new accounting software. Bennett also noted there might still be some growing pains with the process. Finance and staff will feature pending transactions. The commission noted that the band payments need to be added as transactions and pending transactions. Ulrich suggested honoring the former Columbus Auditorium Corporation by having the full name listed with Mary Poser in the account title.

A receipt for the amount of \$78 to Jan Ulrich for postage for calendar solicitation letters was received.

Altschwager motioned to approve the reimbursement to Ulrich for the postage in the amount of \$78; Gilbertson seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote (Gilbertson - aye, Nagle - aye, Ulrich - aye, Altschwager - aye).

2. Update from the July 15 concert and consider and take action regarding beer distributor for the 2026 Summer Concert Series

Nagle provided a recap of the July 15th concert and noted that despite the heat, attracted a crowd of about 60 people. The band had expressed interest in performing in Columbus again. Nagle noted that he has the prepaid check for the Mark Croft concert.

Bennett noted the need for the commission to make a motion to approve the beer distributor for the concerts to be able to submit the invoice from Frank Beer Distributors, Inc. Gilbertson recapped the situation regarding having to utilize Frank Beer to provide beer for the concerts. Gilbertson highlighted that due to low beer sales, the first invoice will be the only one for the entire concert series. The invoice is in the amount of \$120.34 for a total of four cases of beer.

Altschwager motioned to approve up to \$120.34 to Frank Beer Distributors, Inc. for four cases of beer provided for the 2026 summer concert series; seconded by Ulrich. There was no additional discussion. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote (Nagle - aye, Ulrich - aye, Gilbertson - aye, Altschwager - aye).

3. Consider and take action regarding updates to the Rest Haven

Bennett noted no new updates, but that the City's development review team consisting of the City Administrator, the Public Works / Utilities Director, the Community and Economic Development Director, City Engineer, City Attorney, and the Mayor, will discuss the Rest Haven project. The commission expressed frustration at the lack of progress since Council had tasked DPW with the project. There was also confusion as to how the upgrades will be implemented and that the City should at least just order all the doors and install the new front doors if possible. Bennett will provide an update following the review team meeting.

4. Consider and take action for potential local historic designation of Fireman's Park Complex, located at 1049 Park Ave.

Bennett provided a draft application that featured elements intended to answer the Council questions from its May 5th meeting with the plan to forward a copy to Alder Rostad to bring back as a Council item. The commission noted some tweaks and proofing corrections that Bennett will implement prior to sending out. The goal is for the item to be brought to the August 18th Council meeting. Bennett will forward a clean copy to the commission for review prior to sending a copy to Alder Rostad for possible Council agenda addition.

5. Consider and take action purchasing of historic recognition yard signs

Nagle presented the list for completing the Prairie Street and S. Dickason Boulevard historic recognition yard signs. Nagle and Bennett highlighted interest from owners of historic homes about obtaining signs for their properties. Nagle noted that the signs encouraged conversation about historic recognition and even education about local historic designation benefits. There would be some additional signage left after replacing old recognition signs in 2027. The new signs differ in that they feature the original owners, not just the famous owners and even included wives' names. It was discussed about possibly purchasing the 2027 signs in 2026. Nagle and Gilbertson will create a list to come up with a number.

An invoice for 38 signs by Suttle Strauss totaling \$1,249 was presented. The commission had used the same provider for the 2025 signs of the same design. Altschwager motioned to approve up to \$1,249 for 38 historic recognition signs from Suttle Strauss; Gilbertson seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote (Ulrich - aye, Gilbertson - aye, Nagle - aye, Altschwager - aye).

6. Consider and take action regarding the 2027 budget and capital improvement projects

Bennett noted that although no schedule has been provided regarding budget submissions, it would be a good idea to get ahead in case there needs to be a quick turnaround. Budgeting can include the line item provided by the City's general fund and the historic preservation funds. Budgeting would allow for some pre-authorized payments to be made for historic preservation

projects. The commission discussed budgeting for 76 historic recognition yard signs and will come up with a list of additional items.

The commission discussed possible capital improvement projects. The commission prioritized the Rest Haven renovations and City Hall tuckpointing.

7. Consider and take action for recommendation to the Plan Commission regarding the draft historic preservation section of the zoning rewrite

The commission provided feedback to the proposed draft of the historic preservation section of the zoning code. There were requests to clarify how the commission will be impacted, how fundraising historic projects will be handled, and if the ordinance can be simplified. There were concerns about the draft impacting the City's certified local government status for obtaining funding assistance in preparation of future historical designation. Additionally, there were concerns about the City's Finance Director determination of funding designation for historic preservation projects.

The commission would like either the City Administrator or the Community and Economic Development Director to attend the next meeting to address concerns.

8. Update regarding storm damage to the Fireman's Park Pavilion

Bennett updated the commission regarding the storm damage to the roof and the chimney of the Pavilion. It was noted the roof has been repaired with the same color and material of roofing shingles, and the chimney has been capped. The City had contacted the State Historical Preservation Office prior to repair and was given a green light to make repairs. However, the City was reminded any alterations would need State approval as it's part of the state historical designation.

Adjourn

Altschwager motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Gilbertson. There was no discussion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

**** 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 ****