
MINUTES**HUTCHINSON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

City of Hutchinson

Thursday, February 13, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

125 E. Avenue B, Hutchinson, Kansas

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Members present: Joel Haag (2/2), Wes Bartlett (1/2), Shannon Whetzel (2/2), Gale Wall (1/2), Chelsey Dawson (1/2), and Greg Holmes (1/2). Jo Higgins (1/2) was absent.

Planning Staff present: Aaron Barlow, Associate Planner; and Charlene Mosier, Planning Technician.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Haag made a motion to approve the minutes from November 14, 2019 seconded by Holmes, passed unanimously.

3. WRITTEN REPORTS

a. Projects Approved Administratively

Project #	Address	Description	Local Landmark	District and Contributing Status
ADM19-000012	15 S Cleveland St	Reinstall Wood Windows, reroof & add deck in rear	No	Houston Whiteside District (non-contributing)
ADM19-000013	400 S Main St	Two Freestanding Signs	No	Kelly Mills, Individually Listed
ADM20-000001	515 East Avenue A	New Siding on South and Southeast Walls	Yes	Houston Whiteside District (contributing), Scheble-Menke-Van Zandt House

b. Projects Approved by the SHPO – February 3, 2020 – Delisting of Kansas Sugar Refining Company – Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review. The next step is a review by the National Park Service.

c. Projects Approved by the City Council – None

d. Other Reports – None

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Officers

Chair – A motion was made by Bartlett, seconded by Haag to nominate Whetzel as the next Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair – Haag volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. Bartlett seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

b. Resolution of 2020 Meeting Dates

Motion by Haag, seconded by Dawson to approve the Resolution of Dates for 2020, passed unanimously.

c. Preservation Award Nominations

Barlow asked the Landmarks Commission members to start thinking about nominations for the Preservation Award in May. The Burt Building or Evolution Salon could be examples. Staff will check on residential possibilities.

Haag mentioned that the Labor Temple did not get their grant and they are working to shore up a wall in the building that has structural damage in case there are more earthquakes.

d. Historic Preservation Fund Grant Update

Barlow gave an update that the dollar figures in the City Budget are not enough to apply for the HPF grant. We would need \$60,000 and have \$7,000. The suggestion had been to apply for the grant to have a study done on the potential uses for Memorial Hall. A Wichita State University architecture group could have interest in this type of project. This is something staff can look into.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Neon Sign Project Proposal

Holmes spoke about a proposal to preserve neon signs in Hutchinson. This could include the piano music center music note sign. Luminous Neon has repaired the sign; however, it could cost up to \$10,000 to procure the sign with another \$13,000 to convert, refurbish and move the sign for a total of \$23,000. Holmes said he has the original neon tubes for this sign. The

Long's sign is another neon sign he would like to see saved and the owner may be willing to donate it at some point. Reger Rental, Decker Mattison, Coberly Drug, and the Astro motel also have historic neon signs.

Holmes said neon sign collections and displays have become tourist attractions in other states. The Hutchinson Community Foundation and Public Art Council may also be interested in preservation of these signs. The Reno County Museum will place this item on their agenda for discussion. It may be an option to place the signs on a wall of the museum or Memorial Hall for display. Homes said if the signs were all in one location, the area could be called Luminous Alley. This would be a way to preserve a part of Hutchinson.

Staff will check if there are available grants for a project such as this and how museums in Las Vegas or Cincinnati funded their displays.

b. Open comments from the audience – None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next Landmarks Commission meeting is set for 4:00 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene Mosier
Planning Technician
Approved this 26th day of March 2020.

Attest: 
Ryan Hvitlæk, AICP, CFM - Director of Planning & Development