

Ketchikan Historic Commission

August 26, 2021, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 822 5872 7284

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Communications

- a. Pioneer Hall final report submitted and available for review

4. Persons to be Heard

5. Changes to the Agenda

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve July 22, 2021 minutes

7. New Business

- a. DOT notices (none rec'd as of 8/16/2021)
- b. Recruitment of new members to fill 2 vacant seats plus KGB Planning Dept recommendation

8. Unfinished Business

- a. Memorial acknowledgement for Ward Lake Internees at Bayview Cemetery
- b. SHPO grants
 - i. Colorful Characters signage
 - ii. Historic Preservation plan RFP for contractor development

9. Commissioner comments

10. Adjourn

Next meeting: (4th Thursday monthly, 3 pm) September 23, 2021

Ketchikan Historic Commission
Meeting Minutes: July 22, 2021 **DRAFT**

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

The Ketchikan Historic Commission meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. via in-person and Zoom.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

(x) Christa Bruce

(absent) Deborah Hayden

(x) Kristina Hill

(X) Alethea Johnson for Planning Dept.

(absent) Licha Kelley-King

(excused) Anita Maxwell

(x) John Radzilowski

(x) Amanda Welsh

(vacant) 2 Community reps

Guest: Judith McQuerry

Agenda Item #3 Communications

None

Agenda Item #4 Persons to be Heard

None.

Agenda Item # 5 Changes to the Agenda

None.

Agenda Item #6 Consent Agenda

John moved to approve the May 27, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Christa. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 New Business

- a. Memorial acknowledgement for Ward Lake Internees at Bayview Cemetery

Judith McQuerry approached the Ketchikan Historic Commission about working towards putting a permanent memorial dedicated to the Aleuts that passed away during their interment in Ketchikan during World War II. She has done some research and presented the Commission with a list of 16 graves at Bayview Cemetery that contain the key word "Aleut" in their burial information. The majority of these graves are unmarked. In addition, Judith had a list of all burials that took place during 1942-1947. It would require going through coroner's reports for all of these deaths to see if the Aleuts could be identified. Judith does not want to do that. Judith also indicated that Don Bullock may have already done a lot of the research on this, but his family does not have any of that research and it may have been sent to the Russian Orthodox Church in Kodiak.

Judith is recommending either placing an inexpensive headstone at each identified gravesite or placing a memorial bench dedicated to the entire group somewhere up at the cemetery. There was concern with trying to individually identify gravesites, as the list is most likely incomplete. However, there was also discussion of trying to identify as many as possible in reference to the current situation with the boarding schools in Canada.

The Commission is interested in pursuing this idea. There was much discussion about how to proceed with this. Kris suggested working with the Federal government on a potential partnership. She will contact a few people she knows that may be able to offer some assistance. She also suggested reaching out to the Aleut Tribe to request special permission to place a memorial.

There was discussion about creating a working group to look further into this. Judith, John, and Amanda all expressed interest in participating on the working group. The members agreed that it would be important to include decedents or family members on the working group.

Continued discussion included: contacting Steve Scheldt, the sexton at Bayview Cemetery, about family members who come to visit; working with the Federal Government for a list of internees to compare with the burial records; contacting the Russian Orthodox Church in Kodiak to see what records they may have; approaching the City Council for permission to move forward with placing a memorial; reaching out to the tribe for what records they may have; contacting the Alaska Humanities Council, as they have worked on these types of projects before; and contacting the State Historic Preservation Office to see what resources they may have.

Judith will share what she has with the working group and they will move forward.

b. DOT/Government Notice: Beaver Falls Hydro Project review

The Commission had no concerns regarding this project.

Agenda Item #8 Unfinished Business

- a. Historic Ketchikan sign grant – The Budget Amendment was approved by the City Council on July 15th. In addition, the deadline for project completion has been approved to be extended.

- b. Historic Preservation Plan Grant – The Budget Amendment was approved by the City Council on July 15th. The grant agreement has not been received yet due to a hold up at the State and Federal level.

Agenda Item #9 Commissioner Comments

Amanda commented that the Pioneer Hall booklet has been printed and she has a copy available at her office if anyone would like to see it.

John asked who takes care of the historic signs once they are installed. He commented that the one at the Fidalgo Packing Company (currently Trident) on Stedman Street looks like it needs to be cleaned.

Amanda said she would talk with Stephen Reeve with Historic Ketchikan to determine whose sign it is.

Agenda Item #10 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Next meeting: August 26, 2021 (4th Thursday monthly, time 3:00pm)