

**CITY OF UNALASKA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



This annual report is designed to serve multiple functions: to summarize the historic preservation activities of the Unalaska Historic Preservation Commission; to serve as a resource document; to note future historic preservation related activities; and to meet the requirements of § 2.60.090, Unalaska Code of Ordinances.

The following residents of Unalaska served on the City of Unalaska's Historic Preservation Commission in 2023:

**Chair Travis Swangel**  
**Vice Chair Caroline Williams**  
**Ian Bagley**  
**Virginia Hatfield**  
**Rainier Marquez**  
**City Manager: William Homka** (June, 2023)  
**Acting City Manager: Chris Hladick** (Left June, 2023)  
**Acting Planning Director: William Homka** (November, 2022 to June 2023)  
**Planning Director: Cameron Dean** (Started September 2023)

The Historic Preservation Commission is supported by the City of Unalaska's Planning Department, which consists of:

**William Homka**, AICP, City Manager,  
Acting Planning Director (November, 2022 to September 2023)  
**Cameron Dean**, Planning Director (Started September, 2023)  
**Thomas Roufos**, Associate Planner (Since April 2016)  
**Teri Salazar-Lascano**, Administrative Assistant (Moved to Public Works January, 2023)  
**Elaine Blankenship**, Administrative Assistant (Hired October, 2023)

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**RESOLUTION 2024-01**

In accordance with § 2.60.090 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances, the City of Unalaska's Historic Preservation Commission officially adopts the following annual report, filing the same with the Unalaska City Council.

CITY OF UNALASKA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

BY:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Swangel  
Commission Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cameron Dean  
Secretary of the Commission

DATE OF ADOPTION: 1/18/24

## INTRODUCTION

City Council approved Ordinance 2014-05 in 2014 which amended various sections of Title 2 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances, including sections related to Historic Preservation. The Planning Department and Parks, Culture, and Recreation Department consulted with the City Attorney regarding the selection process of Historic Preservation Commissioners. Approved changes created a new UCO 2.76.015, stating that the Historic Preservation Commission membership is the Planning Commission membership, including the Planning Commission's *ex officio* members (*i.e.*, the City Manager and the Director of Planning). While remaining non-voting for Planning Commission decisions, the City Manager and Director of Planning would be full members of the HPC.

Unalaska Code of Ordinances §2.76.040 identifies the duties and responsibilities of the HPC. This is based on the requirements of local governments participating in the Alaska Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Program. The duties and responsibilities are listed below.

- To survey and inventory community historic resources including historic, architectural, and archaeological resources within the community;
- To review nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and consulting with federal and State authorities in section 106 reviews under the National Historic Preservation Act;
- To act in an advisory role to other officials, and to City Departments regarding the identification and protection of local historic and archaeological resources and historic preservation planning;
- To enforce state historic preservation laws. The Historic Preservation Commission shall support the enforcement of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act;
- To review, and where it is deemed appropriate, recommend nominations to or deletions from the Unalaska Register of Historic Places to the Unalaska City Council twice yearly.

§ 2.60.090 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances requires each board and committee to submit an annual report which summarizes the activities which have occurred during the previous year. The Annual Report is a mechanism for monitoring those activities and for presenting to the City Council the goals and objectives for historic preservation in the coming year.

## SUMMARY OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ACTIONS FOR 2023

### I. General Statistics (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)

The Historic Preservation Commission, with support from the Planning Department, took the following actions.

HPC Summary of Activities	2021	2022	2023
Ordinance Changes	-	-	-
General Resolutions	1/1	1/1	1/1
Survey/Inventory of Historic Properties	-	-	-
Preservation Planning Activities	-	-	-
National Register Participation	-	-	-
Historic Property Protection	-	-	-
Public Education Projects	-	-	-
Historic Preservation Grants	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL MEETINGS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

### II. Historic Preservation Commission Recommendations to Council

There were no recommendations to Council.

### III. Historic Preservation Commission Actions

The Historic Preservation Commission approved the 2022 annual report and had several discussion items.	
<i>February 16, 2023: Approved of Annual Report and filed with City Council.</i>	The Historic Preservation Commission approved <b>Resolution 2023-01</b> , a resolution approving the HPC 2022 Annual Report.
<i>August 17, 2023: Discussion item</i>	Review of letter from Forrest Kranda, Archeologist with Army Corps of Engineers, regarding proposed environmental investigations at Little South America on Amaknak Island and Summer Bay-Humpy Cove on Unalaska Island. The purpose of this letter was to notify the Commission of a Federal undertaking and to seek your concurrence on an assessment of effect. – Commission concurred with assessment of the Corps.
<i>October 19, 2023: Discussion Item</i>	Review of letter from Benjamin M. Storey, Regional Environmental Manager/PQI Archaeology, at the Alaska State Department Of Transportation & Public Facilities, Southcoast Region, regarding finding of effect for the demolition of the privately owned Naval Operating Transport Service Warehouse (NOTSW) building located within the Unalaska Airport in Unalaska. – Commission concurred with findings of the archeologists.
<i>November 16, 2023: Discussion Item</i>	Discussion on improvement and replacement of interpretive signage in town to perhaps combine resources with the Museum of the Aleutians “Walking the Chain” signage campaign.
<i>December 21, 2023: Discussion Item</i>	City of Unalaska Brownfields Program Update

#### **IV. Historic Preservation Goals for 2024**

- Improve public engagement with historic preservation, including website improvements, celebrating Preservation Month in May, and improving kiosks/signage/wayfinding.
- Suggest list of sites to City Council for the Unalaska Register of Historic Places and explore ideas for a Historic Preservation Ordinance Amendment.
- Continue working toward addressing the action items identified in the 2011 Comprehensive Plan as they relate to Historic Preservation.
- Consider creation of Historic Preservation regulations and protections.
- Continue to monitor the Unalaska Brownfields Grant project
- Work with the Tri-Lateral Group to assist and advise on repatriation efforts