

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting NOTICE and AGENDA for Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Location: Education Room, Cordova Center

And via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/97271856593?pwd=aLDhWi7aMm66JVrfzNyFZ1M1zzP7UP.1>

Meeting ID: 972 7185 6593

Passcode: 633818

Members and Affiliations (see City Code, Title 18, for more detail):

Vacancy, Cordova Historian or Cordova public member,

Jim Casement, Cordova public member (or Cordova Historian), Acting Chair

Heather Hall, Archaeologist (US Forest Service)

Sylvia Lange, Native Village of Eyak

Christy Mog, Archaeologist (US Forest Service)

Kris Ranney, Cordova Planning Commission member

Jamie Foode, Cordova Historical Society,

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Call to Order and roll call**
- 2. Public Comment Period**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2024 meeting**
- 5. Review status of CLG grant application for revision and publication of Cordova Historic Walking Tour brochure**
- 6. Discuss next steps inventory for building inventory survey work**
- 7. Election of officers for 2025- 2026**
- 8. Review Pending Calendar and task list**
- 9. Schedule next Commission meeting**
- 10. Public Comment Period**
- 11. Commission Closing Comments**
- 12. Adjournment**

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday January 9, 2024 - 5:30-6:30

Location: Mayor's Conference Room, Lower Level, Cordova Center

Members Present:

Nancy Bird, Ashley Bivin, Christy Mog, Sylvia Lange, and Jim Casement; Kris Ranney arrived about 15 minutes into the meeting.

Visitors: Kevin Johnson

Public Comments - None

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Bivin, seconded by Lange to add a discussion to the agenda regarding how to find a home for an antique fishing vessel. Revised agenda approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Mog, seconded by Lange to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Review/approval Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Application 1 – Discussion of this grant application to revise and republish the “Cordova Historic Walking Tour” brochure was led by Bird and Bivin. They intend to work with a graphic design business in Juneau on this project; they will also rely on volunteers from the Commission and the Historical Society to finalize the brochure’s content. Those volunteer hours will provide most of the matching funds required for the matching grant.

Motion by Lange, seconded by Mog to approve Resolution 24-01, “... endorsing a grant application titled “Revision and re-publication of Cordova Historic Walking Tour brochure” to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.” Motion passed unanimously.

Review/approval Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Application 2 – Bird referenced her Jan. 5th memo describing both grant applications for details on what is proposed to be done through this grant project. She said that several firms are being contacted for their cost estimates to conduct a training workshop in Cordova to kick off the building inventory survey project.

Motion by Casement, seconded by Lange to approve Resolution 24-02, “... endorsing a grant application titled “Training Workshop: Historic Building Inventory Survey” to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.” Motion passed unanimously.

Finding homes for antique fishing vessels – Lange reiterated her desire to get the Commission to help in saving a 1932 or 1934 company boat that was built at Crystal Falls cannery, down Eyak River. She and her husband have housed the vessel for a few years but it had to be moved outside this past year and, although it is under a secure tarp, it may be deteriorating by the weather.

Discussion turned to another historic fishing boat, the Starthrower, which was built by Henry Stewart, a long-time fisher and boat builder. The Starthrower was donated to the Cordova Historical Society about 7 years ago and is stored inside a warehouse at a cost of about \$2,000 per year. Bivin said the Society has struggled to locate a site to display this boat and has also been alerted to liability issues and the potential cost of insurance.

Most Commission members expressed support for preserving old fishing boats but recognize the cost and potential insurance liabilities. Consensus to add this issue to the Commission’s Pending Calendar of Issues to try to address in the future.

Next meeting date – Tentatively, the Commission will try to meet again Tuesday, March 5th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

There were no public comments or closing comments by Commission members. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

April 9, 2024, Meeting

Opening the meeting: 5:30 - Jim Casement, Nancy Bird, Christy Mog, and Ashley Biven present, Heather Hall joined meeting via teleconference line at 5:40

Initial Notes

- Casement approves the opening of the meeting, approved without objection.
- Bird discusses the agenda.
- Bird talked about the workshop from Museum of the North
- Annual report for Cordova CLG.

Approval of minutes 5:33 – minutes were approved without objection.

Agenda – review and plan of timeline for walking tour brochure.

Brochure Revisions

- Looking at who can help review the text
- Folks to look at photos to include
- Talk to Ira to help review the text and brochure
- 3-5 individuals will revise text and 2-3 volunteers locating photographs
- Looking for a redesigned map of brochure
- 2-3 hours for design
- Anticipate getting done mid to late June
- Looking to gather aerial imagery to show where sites/stops are located
- Looking for money for extra space for the brochure to include more information/photos
- Looking at a possible QR code which could help for the visually or hearing impaired. Also, easier accessibility, eco-friendly. Biven will talk to the Historical Society.
- Goal is to have this printed no later than the fall
- Looking to July or August

Building inventory work

- Looking to take on starting some small segment of the building inventory.
- Dixie Lambert put in a lot of data to assist with the inventory
- Looking at what buildings we can identify for evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- Start off small with a few buildings to inventory and evaluate for the NRHP
- If found eligible, what steps to take to put on the NRHP with property owners permission

- Talk to Ralph Buzzell to discuss him coming over as a volunteer to reevaluate properties he looked at years ago

Quarterly meeting for CLG reps

- A good place to tune into to learn and get advice
- May 8th is the next hour long meeting. Bird will send out a reminder

Pending calendar

- AHRS training could be dropped along with GPR training

Castle Inn potential project

- Bird mentioned to Sylvia if Castle Inn is big enough to house the two boats, opportunity to utilize the building
- Cost expenses and a place could go would be a challenge
- Where would a maritime museum go?
- Discussion on how to preserve the integrity of the building and transport it. Would it be worth it?

Maritime Museum Cont.

- Liability of boats and preserving historic boats. The city does not have the capacity to maintain the historic boats. Going to be hard to save the boats and preserve the boats, rehabilitate the boats. Sylvia Lange and Greg Meyer are storing a historic boat outside while covered. – Crystal Falls
- Star Thrower – stored at fish camp is a huge price cost – looking at deaccessioning
- How can we take the first step into getting a maritime museum up and running?
- Getting the fishing industry involved and interested in preserving the historic relics of Cordova
- A discussion with CDFU

Next meeting date scheduling – Call it adjourned 6:35

Annual Certified Local Government Report

The *Alaska Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Program State Guidelines* call for each Certified Local Government (CLG) to submit an annual report of its activities to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology for the past calendar year (January 1- December 31). The purpose of the annual report is to provide information on the local government's historic preservation activities. This information helps the Office of History and Archaeology to evaluate local CLG programs and to be aware of the activities of the historic preservation commissions around the state. Please complete the following questions and provide any additional information in attachments. If you do not wish to use the form, please be sure all questions are addressed in your report.

Name of CLG: Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Date of Report: April 23, 2025

Prepared by: Jim Casement

A. LOCAL PRESERVATION ORDINANCES:

1. Have there been any new ordinances, amendments or proposed amendments made to the local historic preservation ordinance? If yes, please attach.

☐ Yes ☒ No

2. Have there been any changes or proposed changes regarding historic preservation to the local comprehensive plan? If yes, please attach.

☐ Yes ☒ No

B. LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

1. Please list the current members of the historic preservation commission noting the disciplines they fill (archaeologist, historian, architect/historical architect, Alaska Native, and general).

Kris Ranney, *Cordova Planning & Zoning Commission*; Sylvia Lange, *Native Village of Eyak*; Jamie Foode, *Cordova Historical Society*; Heather Hall, *Archaeologist, US Forest Service*; Jim Casement and vacant seat, *Cordova historians*; and Christy Mog, *Archaeologist, Cordova Ranger District, US Forest Service*.

2. Have there been any new members appointed to your commission?

☒ Yes ☐ No

3. If yes, please attach a resume for any *new* professional members (archaeologist, historian, architectural historian or architect), and a short statement of occupation and expertise for any *new* non-professional members.

Jamie Foode, Cordova Historical Society representative ? Need short biographic similar to attachment for other members.

3. Are there any vacancies on the commission?

X ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. If yes, list the positions that are vacant noting duration and efforts to fill them.

One Cordova Historian or a Cordova public members seat is vacant. This vacancy was advertised by the City of Cordova and we hope new members will apply soon to fill these seats.

6. Please provide us with the dates of commission meetings.

January 9, 2024 and April 9, 2024

7. Please attach copies of your meeting minutes for the year.

X ☐ Attached ☐ Not Attached

8. Please list any CLG or historic preservation related training sessions or workshops attended by commission members and staff.

C. SURVEY AND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

1. Has your CLG conducted any local surveys in the past year? *If you answer yes please complete questions 2-4.*

☐ Yes X ☐ No

2. Please summarize the survey activity, including the number and types of surveys conducted and the total amount of acreage covered. *If you provide this information in an attachment please note below.*

N/A

3. How many historic properties were recorded and reported to the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)?

0

Please provide, in an attached document, a summary of the results of each survey

conducted, including type of resources recorded, the number of new sites or structures recorded, the number of properties investigated during the survey, and the number of volunteers and property owners involved.

N/A

4. Do local government staff and non-staff researchers use the local cultural resources inventory?

XX ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. If yes, please provide an estimate of how often and by which users your inventory is used.

Many times per year by US Forest Service archaeologists; and several times per year by Cordova museum staff and by Historic Preservation Commission members

D. PRESERVATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

1. Are you currently working on writing or updating your local preservation plan?

☐ Yes X ☐ No

2. If yes, please provide us with a brief summary of your progress writing or updating your local preservation plan.

3. If you have an adopted preservation plan how are you implementing the plan's goals and objectives?

In 2024, we tried to edit the Cordova Historic Walking Tour but became overwhelmed with other work due to staff changes at the museum and library. Some of our Commission members were unable to help as planned due to illness. While we had good intentions, we made no real progress on updating our building inventory survey.

E. NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAM PARTICIPATION:

1. Has your commission evaluated any properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the past year? *If you answer yes please complete questions 2-5.*

☐ Yes XX ☐ No

2. Please provide a list of names and locations of historic properties evaluated.

N/A

3. Please list the dates of public hearings or regularly scheduled meetings at which the public had the opportunity to comment on the nomination(s).

N/A

4. Please explain how the commission arranged for review of the nomination by a qualified historian, archaeologist, architect or historical architect if not represented on the commission.

N/A

F. PROTECTION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

1. Does your commission or staff review local projects for impacts on cultural resources?

XX ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If yes, how many local projects were reviewed in the past year?

0

Please provide a summary or list of the types of local projects reviewed that impacted or had the potential to impact historic properties.

N/A

3. Has your CLG participated in any Section 106 consultations?

No

4. If yes, what were the projects and did you participate, through consultation, in the development of Memorandums of Agreements or Programmatic Agreements, to resolve any adverse effects to historic resources within your community?

N/A

G. PUBLIC PRESERVATION EDUCATION PROJECTS:

1. Has your CLG conducted any public education projects addressing historic preservation in the past year?

☐ Yes XX☒ No

If yes, please list them.

H. HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT ACTIVITIES:

1. Did your CLG apply for and receive any CLG Historic Preservation Fund grants in the past year?

XX☒ Yes ☐ No

2. If yes, please provide a list of grants applied for and received.

In 2024, one grant was awarded for Re-publication of the Cordova Historic Walking Tour.

3. Please list and briefly describe of other (non-CLG Historic Preservation Fund) preservation grants applied for and received.

I. OTHER PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

1. Please summarize any other local events, projects or achievements involving historic resources in the community.

J. UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION:

1. Please provide us with the following contact information so we can insure our records are up to date:

COMMISSION STAFF

Name: Kevin Johnson

Title: Cordova City Planner

Address: PO Box 1210, Cordova, AK 99574

Phone number: 907-424-6220

Email: planning@cityofcordova.net

Acting COMMISSION CHAIR

Name: Jim Casement

Phone number: 907-424-

Email: jcasement@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL CLG/COMMISSION CONTACT

Name: Ashley Bivin

Title: Cordova Historical Museum Director, M.A.

Phone number: 907-424-6250

Email: abivin@cityofcordova.net

For clarification or more information about the annual report requirements, please contact Maria Lewis, CLG Program Coordinator at the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology at (907)269-8717 or maria.lewis@alaska.gov. Annual reports can be mailed to the Office of History & Archaeology, 550 W 7th Ave Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565 or emailed to maria.lewis@alaska.gov.

Chapter 18.90 CORDOVA HISTORICAL DISTRICT AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION¹

18.90.010 Cordova Historic Preservation Commission established.

- A. There is created a historic preservation commission. In this chapter, "the Commission" refers to the Cordova Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission shall have seven members which shall consist of a member of the Cordova Planning Commission, a member of the Cordova Historical Society, a member selected by the Native Village of Eyak and four additional members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. At least one of the four additional members shall be a Cordova resident with a demonstrated interest or knowledge of historic preservation and three of the additional members shall be professionals, as defined by the National Park Service Regulations, from the disciplines of history, architecture or architectural history, and archaeology.
- B. Ex Officio Members. The Mayor and the City Manager shall be ex officio members of the Commission and shall be permitted to participate in discussions as members of the Commission, but shall not vote on matters before the Commission.
- C. Terms of Office. Members of the Commission shall be appointed for three-year terms, provided however, that in the first instance two members shall be appointed for one year, two members appointed for two years and three members appointed for three years.
- D. Filling of Vacancies. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term of the vacated position.

(Ord. No. 1181, § 1, 12-19-2019; Ord. No. 1195, § 2, 4-21-2021)

18.90.020 Cordova Historic Preservation Commission—Officers.

- A. The Commission shall annually organize and elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary at the first meeting of a new fiscal year.
- B. The chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the Commission and shall exercise all powers usually incident to the office and shall have the power to participate in discussions and vote on all matters before the Commission.
- C. The Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chair in the Chairperson's absence. In case of the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the members present may elect a temporary chair for the meeting who shall, during such meeting, have full powers of the Chair.
- D. The Secretary shall be responsible for taking and typing minutes of all meetings of the Commission, and for providing the minutes to the City Clerk for distribution and recordkeeping.

(Ord. No. 1181, § 1, 12-19-2019; Ord. No. 1195, § 3, 4-21-2021)

¹Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 1181, § 1, adopted December 19, 2019, amended Chapter 18.90 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former Chapter 18.90, §§ 18.90.010—18.90.050, pertained to similar subject matter, and derived from Ord. 751, 1995; Ord. 746 §§ 1—5, 1994; Ord. 691(part), 1992.

18.90.030 Cordova Historic Preservation Commission—Meetings.

- A. The Commission shall meet regularly at a time and place set by the Commission. The Commission will meet twice a year at a minimum. The commission shall conduct business in accordance with the Open Meeting Laws of Alaska. The Commission shall publish notice of the time, place, and agenda items for all meetings. Notice of postponement of any regular meeting must be given to each member and to the public at least 24 hours in advance.
- B. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson and at such times as the Commission may determine necessary provided that at least 24 hours' notice of a special meeting is given to the public and to Commission members at their established residences or businesses.
- C. The Commission shall keep minutes of its proceedings showing the vote on each issue and the number absent or failing to vote. The Commission shall keep records of its official actions, all of which shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk and shall be kept as a public record.
- D. A majority of the membership of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A public hearing may be opened and comments received without a quorum of the Commission present, and action taken at the next meeting at which a quorum is present. Commission members may participate in and vote on a matter even if they were not present at the public hearing so long as they have been provided the minutes from the public hearing before voting on the matter.
- E. The Commission shall conduct business using the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. All main motions shall be made in the affirmative.
- F. Any member of the Commission anticipating an absence from Commission meetings shall so advise the Commission. A member who misses three consecutive regular meetings without prior excuse shall automatically be recommended for replacement to the Mayor.
- G. All recommendations by the Commission to the Planning Commission or to City Council shall be made by resolution. Resolutions shall be numbered consecutively within each year according to the sequence of approval and shall be signed by the chair and secretary.
- H. Rules and procedures of the Commission may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a majority vote of the membership of the Commission.

(Ord. No. 1181, § 1, 12-19-2019; Ord. No. 1195, § 4, 4-21-2021)

18.90.040 Cordova Historic Preservation Commission—Powers and duties designated.

- A. Develop a local historic preservation plan providing for identification, protection, and interpretation of Cordova's significant cultural resources. This plan is to be compatible with the Alaska historic preservation plan.
- B. Review and make recommendations about local projects that might affect properties identified in the historic preservation plan.
- C. Review Proposed Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The commission shall review and comment to the State Historic Preservation Officer on all proposed National Register nominations for properties within the boundaries of the community. When the commission considers a National Register nomination which is normally evaluated by professionals in a commission, the commission will seek expertise in this area before rendering its decision.
- D. Provide Advice and Information. The commission shall act in an advisory role to the Cordova planning and zoning commission who will make recommendations to the Cordova city council. It shall also advise and

assist other city officials and departments and the public regarding the identification, protection, and enhancement of local historic and archaeological resources. The commission shall work toward continuing education of citizens regarding historic preservation. It shall assist property owners in any way necessary including help with getting their property on the National Register and in identifying funding sources for specific projects.

- E. The commission shall support the enforcement of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AS 41.35).
- F. The commission shall support the enforcement of any local preservation laws that may be passed.
- G. The commission shall draft or make recommendations on local preservation ordinances, a preservation plan, or an overall development plan with a preservation or "building style" theme and make recommendations to the planning and zoning commission who, in turn, will make recommendations to the city council.

(Ord. No. 1181, § 1, 12-19-2019)

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Brief biographies for Commission Members, listed alphabetically August 2023

“... The Commission shall have **seven members** which shall consist of a **member of the Cordova Planning Commission, a member of the Cordova Historical Society, a member selected by the Native Village of Eyak** and four additional members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. **At least one of the four additional members shall be a Cordova resident with a demonstrated interest or knowledge of historic preservation** and **three** of the additional members shall be **professionals**, as defined by the National Park Service Regulations, **from the disciplines of history, architecture or architectural history, and archaeology.**”

CHPC Officers 2023: Chair – Nancy Bird; Vice Chair – Wendy Ranney; Secretary – Christy Mog

Nancy Bird has been active in Cordova historical projects since she arrived in 1977. As a volunteer, she most recently served as the Project Leader for the [Red Dragon Historic District](#)'s ongoing capital campaign projects. Bird previously worked as President of the Prince William Sound Science Center; was Editor of the Cordova Times; taught several history courses at the Prince William Sound Community College; and worked multiple times at the Cordova Museum, in addition to the Legislative Information Office. She assisted Nicki Nielsen in publication of “From Fish and Copper – Cordova’s Heritage and Buildings,” (1984); and served as the Cordova Historical Society’s editor in the republication of “Cordova to Kennecott” (1988). (**Professional - Historian**) – nbird5800@gmail.com

Jim Casement is a retired teacher with a passion for sharing Cordova’s history, particularly with young people. He is very active with Pioneer Igloo No. 19 and was instrumental in raising funds for its renovation and historic preservation. He also spearheaded a publication project for Cordova School District which resulted in a book titled, “Cordova Schools Centennial Yearbook – 1908-2008.” (**Member, Cordova Historical Society**) – jcasement@gci.net

Heather Hall is an archaeologist with the Glacier Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service. She works throughout Chugach National Forest and brings to the Commission expertise and knowledge of our region’s archaeological and cultural resources. (**Professional, Archeology**) – h2skidogsak@gmail.com

Sylvia Lange was born and raised in Cordova. Her mother, Mae Hansen, came from Katalla and her father, Fred Lange, was from Peak Island in Prince William Sound. Her grandmothers were Tlingit and Sugpiaq, and her grandfathers were Danish and German immigrants. Lange spent most of her life as a commercial fisherman on the Copper River Delta and in Prince William Sound. She is married to Gregory Meyer and has raised three children. Currently, she and her husband own and operate the Reluctant Fisherman Inn. Lange is very active as a volunteer, currently serving on the First Alaska Institute’s Board, Cordova Historic Preservation Commission and Council of the Native Village of Eyak. (**Member, Native Village of Eyak**) – sylviarl@me.com

Christine Mog attended Kansas State University and graduated with a BS in Anthropology and graduated from Northern Arizona University with a MA in Archaeology. She specializes in environmental archaeology and wrote her master’s thesis on ice patches, fluvial instability, and climate change while working at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Currently, she is a District Archaeologist for the Chugach National Forest. Christy has published many archaeological articles, presented at several conferences, and has expertise in cultural resource management and archaeological research. Christy has a particular interest in researching human interactions with the cryosphere. Her broad research goal is to investigate initial human adaptation to the varied ecological landscapes across Alaska, and human response to subsequent environmental change. (**Professional, Archeology**) christymmog@gmail.com

Kris Ranney is a lifelong resident of Cordova, with a deep and abiding respect for its history. They have a BA in History and Archeology from the University of Oregon. They work as a wilderness guide where they teach about the history and historical context of Cordova and the surrounding region, as well as surviving on the City of Cordova's Planning and Zoning Commission. ***(Member, Cordova Planning and Zoning Commission)***
rannkri@gmail.com