



HIGHLAND PARK ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Held virtually via Zoom

APPROVED BY COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2025

JULY 17, 2025

Commissioners Present: Celina Barrios-Millner, Andrew Shelburne, Ernest Coston, Fadi Samaha, and Angela Ward Hyatt

Commissioners Absent: Angela Cook, and Suleman Gajere

Staff Present: Joseph Cornish, Director of Design Review

Meeting minutes are meant to provide a broad overview of the hearing and not meant to serve as a transcript of discussions that are found in the hearing recording. A full recording of the hearing is available at:

<https://www.boston.gov/historic-district/highland-park-architectural-conservation-district>

6:03 PM: Acting Chair A. Ward Hyatt called the public meeting to order. She explained that, pursuant to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, that the public meeting was being conducted virtually via the online meeting platform Zoom.

Following this brief introduction she called the first agenda item:

I. HIGHLAND PARK ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION BYLAWS DISCUSSION

Documents Presented: The Commissioners reviewed a working draft of the proposed bylaws.

Discussion Topics: The Commissioners discussed the following:

- solicitation of nominations for resident Commissioners from nominating organizations;
- limiting resident members and alternates to those who reside in the district, removing the words, "or own property in the district";
- determining how alternates are selected to vote at hearings;
- terms of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, and expanding the role of the Vice-Chair;
- staff assigned to the district be familiar with the architectural character of the district and the Standards and Criteria put forth in the Study Report;



- clarification of conflicts of interest including appearances of a conflict of interest and the recusal of Commissioners in the review of projects within 300 feet of their own properties;
- Commissioner absences from hearings;
- adding a detailed process for changing the Standards and Criteria;
- expiration of Certificates of Design Approval;
- time limitations on presentations and public comment; and
- procedures for violations and Stop Work Orders.

Commissioners were in agreement that another specially scheduled public meeting needs to take place to continue review of the draft bylaws before scheduling a vote to adopt.

Public Comment: David Black asked about addressing commissioner adherence to criteria and standards when reviewing and voting on design review applications, and for clarification regarding voting by BLC Commissioners and local resident Commissioners.

II. ADJOURNMENT: 7:37 PM

III.

COMMISSIONER A. SHELBURNE MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE HEARING.

COMMISSIONER C. BARRIOS-MILLNER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE VOTE WAS 5-0 (Y: CBM, AS, EC, FS, AWH) (N: NONE) (ABS: NONE).