

**Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023**

A special meeting of the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Old Jail Building, located at 514 W. Liberty Street, Louisville, Kentucky.

Commission Members present:

Ashlyn Ackerman, Vice Chair
Amin Omidy
Carrye Jones
Robert Kirchdorfer
Howard Rosenberg
Doug Owen
Kate Meador
Christopher Fuller
Lori Stahlgren
Stefanie Buzan

Commission Members absent:

Morgan Ward, Chair
John Mays
Emily Liu

Staff Members Present:

Joe Haberman, Planning Manager
Savannah Darr, Historic Preservation Officer
Kat Groskreutz, Planning & Design Coordinator
Brad Fister, Planning & Design Coordinator
Iná Nakao, Historic Preservation Specialist
Laura Ferguson, Legal Counsel

The following matters were considered:

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**NOVEMBER 17, 2022 HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND PRESERVATION
DISTRICTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

On a motion by Commissioner Buzan, seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission does hereby **APPROVE** the Minutes of the meeting conducted on November 17, 2022.

The vote was as follows:

Yes: Commissioners Buzan, Fuller, Jones, Meador, Omidy, Owen, Stahlgren, Rosenberg, and Vice Chair Ackerman

Abstain: Commissioner Kirchdorfer

Absent: Commissioners Mays, Liu, and Chair Ward

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**NEW BUSINESS
22-LANDMARK-0002**

Request:	Petition Request to Designate the Buildings and Property Located at Lawton Court as an Individual Landmark
Project Name:	Lawton Court
Location:	1467 South Preston Street; 401, 402, 402 ½, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410-414, 411-413, 415, 417, and 419 Lawton Court
Jurisdiction:	Louisville Metro
Council District:	6- Vacant
Case Manager:	Savannah Darr, Historic Preservation Officer

The staff report prepared for this case was incorporated into the record. The Commissioners received this report in advance of the hearing, and this report was available to any interested party prior to the public hearing. (The staff report is part of the case file maintained at Planning and Design Services offices, 444 South 5th Street.)

A recording of the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission meeting is available online at louisville.legistar.com, or you may contact the Office of Planning & Design Services to obtain a copy.

Agency testimony:

In advance of the January 24, 2023 meeting, the property owner's counsel questioned whether the process in the Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances was being followed correctly, arguing that the subject property was not eligible for designation as an individual landmark. Staff determined that the Commission should provide a formal interpretation on this matter prior to acting on the specific request to designate. Savannah Darr presented the case and reviewed the progression of the case to date. Ms. Darr explained the differences between individual landmarks and districts as well as the reason why the Commission was reviewing this question of appropriate definitions and process (see recording for detailed presentation).

The following spoke in support of the process being followed correctly:

Sarah Fisher, 432 E. Lee Street, Louisville, KY
Becky Gorman, 927 Texas Avenue, Louisville, KY

Summary of testimony of those in support:

Sarah Fisher spoke in support of the process thus far. Ms. Fisher stated that the process they followed for the Lawton Court petition was done appropriately and that Lawton Court should be considered as an individual landmark (see recording

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for detailed presentation).

Becky Gorman spoke in support of the process thus far. Ms. Gorman stated that Lawton Court should be considered as an individual landmark (see recording for detailed presentation).

The following spoke in opposition of the process being followed correctly:
Cliff Ashburner, 101 South 5th Street, Louisville, KY

Summary of testimony of those in support:

Cliff Ashburner spoke in opposition to the process thus far and showed a slideshow presentation. Mr. Ashburner stated that he believed that the designation of multiple parcels in Lawton Court can only be acted upon as a district petition and not an individual landmarks petition (see recording for detailed presentation).

Commissioners' deliberation

On a motion by Commissioner Omidy, seconded by Commissioner Stahlgren, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission in Case Number 22-LANDMARK-0002 does hereby **ALLOW** the petition process to move forward. Thus, the received petition meets the requirements of 32.260(I) as submitted.

The vote was as follows:

Yes: Commissioners Jones, Fuller, Stahlgren, Omidy, Buzan, Meador, and Vice Chair Ackerman

No: Commissioners Rosenberg, Owen, and Kirchdorfer

Absent: Commissioners Mays, Liu, and Chair Ward

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Agency testimony:

Savannah Darr presented the findings of the designation report and showed a slideshow presentation. Ms. Darr reviewed the requirements for designation. Ms. Darr responded to questions from the Commissioners (see recording for detailed presentation).

**The following spoke in support of the request as representatives of the
Petitioner:**

Sarah Fisher, 432 E. Lee Street, Louisville, KY
Becky Gorman, 927 Texas Avenue, Louisville, KY
Jody Dahmer, 810 Finzer Street, Louisville, KY

**Summary of testimony of those in support as representatives of the
Petitioner:**

Becky Gorman spoke in support of the request. Ms. Gorman discussed the significance of Lawton Court and shotgun style buildings and showed a slideshow presentation (see recording for detailed presentation).

Sarah Fisher spoke in support of the request. Ms. Fisher discussed the history of discrimination and planning in the neighborhood and showed a slideshow presentation (see recording for detailed presentation).

Jody Dahmer spoke in support of the request. Mr. Dahmer discussed the significance of Lawton Court and the need for the neighborhood to keep housing (see recording for detailed presentation).

**The following spoke in opposition to the request as representatives of the
Property Owners:**

Cliff Ashburner, 101 S. 5th Street, Louisville, KY
Joe Pierson, 2309 Mohican Hill Court, Louisville, KY
Lisa Lewis, 410 Lawton Court, Louisville, KY

**Summary of testimony of those in opposition as representatives of the
Property Owners:**

Cliff Ashburner spoke in opposition to the request and showed a slideshow presentation. Mr. Ashburner spoke about Lawton Court's lack of significance and integrity (see recording for detailed presentation).

Joe Pierson spoke in opposition to the request and showed a slideshow presentation. Mr. Pierson presented an alternative version of a designation report depicting the history of Lawton Court and its lack of historic integrity (see

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recording for detailed presentation).

Lisa Lewis spoke in opposition to the request. Ms. Lewis spoke as a remaining owner occupant on Lawton Court. She spoke of the issues there and how designation would not help (see recording for detailed presentation).

Public Comment:

The following spoke in support of the request:

Deanna Rushing, 1382 S. 1st Street, Louisville, KY
Cherise Williams, 2729 Northwestern Parkway, Louisville, KY
Jessa Henry, no address given
Nicholas Johnson, 2144 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY
Matt Ruben, 717 E. Oak Street, Louisville, KY
Deirdre Seim, 937 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY
Lou Fox, no address given
Chelsea Gagnon, 611 Rawlings Street, Louisville, KY
Patrick Smith, 976 Clarks Lane, Louisville, KY
Maria Gurren, 525 Camp Street, Louisville, KY
Scott Whitehouse, 1401 S. 2nd Street, Louisville, KY
Kathleen Davis, 704 Camp Street, Louisville, KY
Steve Seim, 937 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY
Anita Hall, German-Paristown Neighborhood Association, no address given
Rob Gagnon, 611 Rawlings Street, Louisville, KY
Alena Balakos, no address given
Mary Inman, 1137 Lydia Street, Louisville, KY

The following spoke in opposition to the request:

Larry Fisher, 1501 S. Preston Street, Louisville, KY

The following spoke neutral to the request:

Heath Seymour, 1306 Oak Hill Road, Louisville, KY

Closing remarks:

Sarah Fisher, Becky Gorman, and Jody Dahmer spoke in favor of the request and asked the Commission to designate Lawton Court an individual landmark (see recording for detailed presentation).

Cliff Ashburner spoke in opposition to the request and asked the Commission to deny the requested designation (see recording for detailed presentation).

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Commissioners' deliberation

Commissioner Stahlgren moved to designate the subject property as an individual landmark, seconded by Commissioner Jones. While a majority of Commissioners in attendance voted affirmatively, the motion failed.

Pursuant to Section 32.254(E) of Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances, "the affirmative vote of a majority of the total membership shall be required to designate an individual landmark or district." Seven affirmative votes were required and only six were obtained.

RESOLVED, the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission in Case Number 22-LANDMARK-0002 does hereby **DENY** the petitioners' request to designate the Lawton Court Pedestrian Court Complex as an Individual Landmark.

The vote was as follows:

Yes: Commissioners Jones, Stahlgren, Omidy, Buzan, Meador, and Vice Chair Ackerman


No: Commissioners Rosenberg, Fuller, Owen, and Kirchdorfer

Absent: Commissioners Mays, Liu, and Chair Ward

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Chairman

DocuSigned by:

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Division Director