



Approved Minutes
Historic Preservation Board

Date: August 4, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: 57 E. First Street, Lower Level Council Chambers

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Janice Gennevois, Chair Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair Jim Taylor Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D. Greg Marek	Louise Swann	John Wesley	Vince Murray Ron Peters Vic Linhoff Donna Bengé

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Gennevois called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the July 7, 2015 minutes

First motion made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalfé to approve the minutes and seconded by Vice Chair Mack-Allred.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Swann absent)

3. Review and consider options for documenting the history of the Buckhorn Baths; presentation by Ron Peters.

Ron Peters presented to the Board his concern that the City is no longer pursuing purchase of the Buckhorn Baths and that another buyer could purchase the property and tear down the buildings. Therefore, it is important that the buildings and the history of the property be fully documented as an alternative method of historic preservation. Mr. Peters suggested to the Board that it would be advisable to use LIDAR technology to measure the building inside and out to create accurate drawings of the building as well as taking high quality photographs consistent with what is required by the National Register. From his discussions with the architecture firm Saemisch and Di Bella, the cost of doing this work will be approximately \$25,000.

Following discussion by the Board of various options for pursuing this work, it was decided that a letter should be sent to the City Manager from the Board chair asking the City to fund a contract for this work.

First motion made by Board member Marek to authorize the Chair to draft a letter to the City Manager requesting that the City pursue a contract to document the Buckhorn Baths buildings using Lidar technology and high quality photography and seconded by Board member Schaffer-Metcalfé.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Swann absent)

4. Review and discuss results of the 2nd Avenue and Pasadena historic survey; presentation by Vince Murray

Vince Murray, Arizona Historical Research, consultant for the 2nd Avenue and Pasadena historic survey presented a summary of his survey findings to the Board. He stated he has completed this work and reviewed his findings with the State Historic Preservation Office to see what options there might be to form one or more districts in this area. He stated that after reviewing all the information it became easier to consider creating districts if the Methodist Church, the commercial properties along the south side of 1st Avenue, and the school on Sistine were removed from consideration. With these changes there is a strong core on the south side of 2nd Avenue and another on along Pasadena. Mr. Murray also recommended that the period of significance end in 1958 when the last initial construction was completed.

Board members asked several questions to clarify the findings and options for pursuing local and national designation in the area. Mr. Murray stated that before he can complete work on a national nomination he needs to know what area or areas will be included. The Board decided that the next step would be to hold a neighborhood meeting to review the findings and determine support for the options.

Vice Chair Mack-Allred volunteered to work with the City's Preservation Officer, John Wesley, to set up a meeting. The meeting will probably be held in October.

5. Discuss options for promoting historic signage along Main Street

Board member Marek started the discussion by stating that with light rail construction coming to completion there will be more development pressure along Main Street. Redevelopment of these properties would likely result in loss of the historic signs. Recognizing that the City staff is too busy to work on this right now, he proposed that the Board form a working committee that could take the Tucson code and make what modifications might be needed to prepare the code for consideration by Council. He suggested that once the City completed the work on the overall sign code update it would not be difficult to make whatever adjustments were needed to this section to fit the new code.

Board member Schaffer-Metcalf stated she had followed up from the last meeting to see about getting a segment on Arizona Highways featuring this historic signage in Mesa. She has received information on how to put forth a proposal for their consideration. The segment would need to include more than just the signs to get interest by the program. She suggested that if a group is going to work on the sign ordinance, they could also work on this idea.

John Wesley stated that if the Board forms a formal sub-committee it will have to meet all the open meeting law requirements of notice, agenda, and minutes. If we establish a staff working group that includes a few board members, we would have more flexibility. The Board members agreed this would be a better approach. Mr. Wesley will follow up on the process for getting this established. Board members Marek and Alvrus agreed to work on this issue.

6. Update on information for the student writing contest for the coming year

Mr. Wesley distributed the draft rules for participation in this year's contest. Board member Schaffer-Metcalf explained the general goal is to have the documents ready to send out to teachers by the end of August. The contest will allow entries until early November. The Board would review the entries in January and make selections in February. This would allow the awards to be given in late March or April. The Board agreed with this time line.

7. Prepare for the 1st Friday event in downtown Mesa on September 4, 2015

It was pointed out that the event is actually the 2nd Friday, which is September 11. Vice Chair Mack-Allred and Board member Taylor agreed to be present for the event. Board member Alvrus said she could supply some display materials. Other materials will be the same as previously used. Mr. Wesley will assist with making copies of handouts. Vice Chair Mack-Allred will contact the person responsible for the event to secure our booth location.

8. Plan for September meeting with the West Side Clark Historic neighborhood

Mr. Wesley stated the general plan is to establish a place in the neighborhood for Board members to meet for a brief tour of the area at 5:30. This will likely be at Sandra Andrews' house. We will then go to the Lutheran Church at Date and 1st Place to hold the meeting.

The Board discussed several ideas for the meeting. It was decided to start with Mr. Wesley providing a brief overview of what the Historic Preservation Board does and then each member will introduce themselves. We will then discuss the West Side Clark district and the value of creating a local district and offer assistance in working through the process. The Board will open up for questions and answers about historic preservation. We will also have copies of the HP brochure that was previously created.

9. Discuss options for filling the Historic Preservation Officer position

Board member Marek stated that he has been giving the need for having an actual Historic Preservation Officer a lot of thought. He knows budgets are still tight. He said he is aware that Scottsdale used to have a contract position do this work. He suggested the Board approach the Mayor or City Manager about following this approach.

Board member Taylor pointed out that at the nation's 38th largest City we should be able to do better than that and we ought to continue to push for a regular, full-time position.

The Board discussed various options and the value of having this position filled. It was pointed out that having this position filled would help achieve some of the City's goals for economic development and neighborhood maintenance.

The Board agreed to have Mr. Wesley set up a meeting with the Mayor and City Manager where the Board Chair and one or two other Board members could discuss this need.

10. Discuss shade structures on Main Street

Chair Gennevois stated that it was getting too late for discussion of this topic so it would be moved to a future agenda.

11. Updates on Museums, Exhibits, Committees and Events related to Historic Preservation

Vic Linhoff brought to the Board's attention that it would be possible for the Board to have a booth at the upcoming Light Rail Ribbon Cutting event on August 22. He provided the Board with copies of the form that needed to be completed to participate. Vice Chair Mack-Allred agreed to complete the application and get it turned in. Chair Gennevois agreed to be there to represent the Board at the event.

12. Board Member comments, questions, and future agenda items

- Mr. Wesley stated there is a rezoning request for the HL zoning designation that will be on this agenda.

13. Adjournment

Chair Genevois adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Taylor and seconded by Vice Chair Mack-Allred.
Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Swann absent)

Supporting data is available for public review in the Planning Division,
Municipal Building, 55 N. Center St., Mesa, Arizona 85201

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