

CITY OF MESA
MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: February 12, 2004 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Victor Linoff
David Dean
Vince Anderson
Lori Osiecki
Tracy Wright Wagner
Ron Peters

STAFF PRESENT

Sandra Apsey
Kathy Guthmiller
Jerry Howard
Greg Marek

OTHERS PRESENT

Gary Apsey
Jeff Kulaga

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pat Mendivil

1. Call to Order.

The February 12, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Consider Minutes of January 8, 2004 Regular Meeting.

It was moved by David Dean, seconded by Ron Peters, to **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF the January 8, 2004 Minutes, as amended.**

**Vote: 6 in favor
0 opposed**

3. Items from Citizens Present (no action to be taken).

No items from citizens present.

4. Discuss topics for the March 6, 2004 HPC Retreat.

Items Committee members would like to review/discuss at their March 6th Retreat include the following:

- Review of last year's Retreat minutes
- Historic Preservation Plan work program
- Criteria for future Local Historic Designations/staff report procedures
- GIS Post War Study – Implementation
- Guidelines/recommendations to be developed from GIS study on how historic significance should be evaluated and considered.
- How the Hunter Interests report relates to and could potentially affect historic properties (discuss developing a strategy on what to work on over next year)
- Potential new HPC members to replace those with terms ending
- Guidelines or manual to give to people interested in establishing historic districts
- Funding sources
- Education/workshops (for Committee members, staff and neighborhood representatives)

Committee members noted a location for the Retreat would still need to be determined, but would like to see if it could be held at the Landmark Restaurant.

5. Discuss and Consider Historic Preservation Graphic Element.

Chair Linoff noted that the previous graphic images he sent to the embroidery company weren't definitive enough to be stitched.

Ms. Osiecki said she would send the latest revision by e-mail.

Chair Linoff stated he would submit it to the embroidery company again and see what they say.

6. Discuss 2004 Historic Preservation Awards Program.

Mr. Marek briefed Committee members on what has been done to promote the 2004 Historic Preservation Awards Program. Items completed include:

- Nomination packets mailed to:
 - City Council members
 - Council Advisory Board members
 - Historic District Representatives

- Mesa History/Social Study teachers (list provided by David Dean)
 - HPC agenda/packet mailing list
 - Display at Historic Home Tour
- Advertisements placed in AZ Republic and the Tribune for Saturday, February 14th.
- Press Release issued February 6, 2004.
- Display Boards and nomination forms placed at:
- SW Museum
 - Mesa Town Center Corp.
 - Main Library
 - Mesa Room
 - Mesa Historical Museum
 - Historic Preservation Office

Mr. Marek noted that nominations are due on March 5th, 2004; the HPC will review the nominations at their regular March meeting and select any award winners at the April Historic Preservation Committee meeting.

Committee members agreed that for next year, they should discuss modifying the wording in the Historic Preservation Awards nomination packet related to current City employees being ineligible for an award. HPC members noted they had intended to convey that current Historic Preservation Office staff and current HPC members were ineligible to receive awards.

7. Discuss Endangered Properties List and Poster.

Chair Linoff noted that the 300 posters have been printed, and asked Mr. Peters what the cost was so Committee members could reimburse him.

Mr. Peters asked Mr. Marek how much the Historic Preservation Office was able to contribute towards the posters it would keep to distribute.

Mr. Marek stated that the Historic Preservation Office could pay for \$200 worth of posters to keep in the office to distribute.

HPC members noted they would figure out the difference and reimburse Mr. Peters for their portion.

HPC members suggested distributing the posters at the East Valley Historic Preservation Coalition meeting. Suggestions were made to distribute the posters to downtown merchants who could display them, and also to the Mesa School District History/Social Studies departments.

Committee members also suggested doing a press release of the Endangered Properties Poster instead of holding a press conference. Chair Linoff said that he would try to write a press release, and Mr. Marek offered to check with the City's Public Information Office to see if they would write one.

8. Director's Report.

Mr. Marek informed Committee members that the Landmark Restaurant Zoning Overlay is scheduled for the March 18, 2004 Planning and Zoning hearing; a study session will be held at 7:30 a.m. on March 16th. The Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation will be forwarded to City Council. Staff will send agendas to HPC members once they're available.

Mr. Marek noted that staff helped the Ellises organize the public meeting required of them (since it's considered a zoning case) and also to prepare a Citizen Participation Plan and Report.

Mr. Marek reminded Committee members about the East Valley Historic Preservation Coalition meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 24th, acknowledging that agendas that were distributed.

Mr. David Dean stated that he would be at this meeting to talk about Mesa's endangered properties.

Mr. Marek stated that Mr. Jerry Howard would be updating Committee members on the Arizona Archaeology Expo.

Mr. Anderson asked if there was any update on the Crismon property.

Mr. Marek responded that there has been no resolution, but the Parks Department has indicated they aren't intending to use the property, and have discussed the possibility of leasing or selling it. Mr. Marek noted he spoke with Ms. Wright Wagner to see if she wanted to talk to the Mesa Historical Museum's Board in case they had some interest in the property.

Ms. Wright Wagner stated that she did talk to the Museum Board and they agreed that the property is worth preserving, but the Museum is unable to commit to an additional project at this time.

Mr. Marek said that access to the Crismon property is very restrictive, which makes it challenging to be able to utilize.

Chair Linoff asked if it's still a possibility to get a tour of the property to ascertain its condition.

Mr. Marek noted he would look into that possibility.

9. Update from Sandra Apsey, Mesa Room.

Ms. Sandra Apsey reminded Committee members that Nancy Norton would be giving her presentation on the Mezona this Saturday at 2 p.m.

Ms. Apsey noted that she would be putting up information about the Historic Preservation Awards in the Mesa Room's display case.

Ms. Apsey distributed bookmarks with the Mesa Room's new temporary hours listed.

Ms. Apsey stated that Anna Uremovich (Mesa Room Archivist) has been working with Queen of Peace parish over the past few months, completing an exhibit showcasing its history, on display in the foyer of the church.

Ms. Apsey noted that due to Library cutbacks, she would not be able to hold the walking tour in conjunction with Historic Preservation Week, but the presentation on May 8th (given by Chair Linoff and Mr. Peters) would still be hosted by the Library.

Mr. Vince Anderson asked about the digital program (related to the picture collection) that the Library started working on several years ago with the Southwest Museum.

Ms. Apsey noted that the Southwest Museum has some of the photograph collection in their database, and the Mesa Room has access to it (it's not Web-accessible to the public at this time). Ms. Apsey added that a State grant was received to make the images available online.

Ms. Apsey stated that she is working with the Information Services Division to create a Web-accessible database that contains the Mesa Room's archival collections, currently not accessible from the catalog.

Ms. Wright Wagner inquired about the status of the Washington Park Oral History project.

Ms. Apsey noted that a few of the elderly residents have passed away, and there have been other complications in completing the interviews. Ms. Apsey stated that she plans to advertise in the newspaper to see if anyone would be willing to be interviewed for this Oral History project.

Committee members thanked Ms. Apsey for her dedicated work on these projects.

10. Update from Southwest Museum.

Mr. Jerry Howard invited Committee members to visit “Sue,” the Tyrannosaurus Rex that is currently on display at the Southwest Museum. Mr. Howard noted that this exhibit has greatly increased the attendance to the Museum.

Mr. Howard thanked Chair Linoff and Mr. Peters for giving a talk at the Museum in December about Historic Preservation in Mesa.

Mr. Howard stated that the Mesa Grande fence project has been completed, along with landscaping being added around the outside of it.

Chair Linoff asked if there was going to be any type of dedication or publicity to encourage public support and awareness.

Mr. Howard said he believed there were a couple of newspaper articles that came out about the fence project. Mr. Howard added that there is a large, bronze plaque stating that the property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and noted it would be a good idea to put up that plaque at some type of dedication ceremony.

Mr. Howard informed the Committee that the Mesa Community College Field School is working on the Mesa Grande site on Fridays; Mr. Howard teaches this class on Tuesday nights.

Mr. Howard updated HPC members on the excavation of three Hohokam pit houses at the Pecos Road site.

Mr. Howard reminded the Committee that the 2004 Arizona Archaeology Expo will be held March 20 –21 at the Mesa Southwest Museum, and distributed posters to HPC members. Mr. Howard noted that there would be 38 groups exhibiting information at booths, and a table has been reserved for the Historic Preservation Committee for a display.

Chair Linoff asked Historic Preservation Committee members to think about when they would be able to volunteer at the table, and a schedule could be worked out at the next HPC meeting.

11. Update Regarding Mesa Historical Museum from Tracy Wright Wagner.

Ms. Wright Wagner informed the HPC that the Museum is holding its fundraising Barbecue event on March 20th; from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., stating that they were unable to find a Saturday in the month of March where there wasn't some other event going on. Ms. Wright Wagner passed out fliers,

inviting HPC members to stop out at the fundraiser when they're not at the Archaeology Expo.

Ms. Wright Wagner updated the Committee on the Historic Home Tour, noting that about 465 - 475 tickets were sold for the event.

Ms. Wright Wagner informed the HPC about the Museum's next lecture (February 19th) on the history of the insurance industry in Mesa.

Ms. Wright Wagner noted that the Mesa Historical Museum is putting together a Heritage Grant to finish some of the rehabilitation needs of the two school buildings.

12. Committee Member Comments and Questions and Future Agenda Items.

Chair Linoff informed Committee members that the East Valley Historic Preservation Coalition will have its joint meeting on Tuesday, February 24th from 6 - 9 p.m., at Monti's La Casa Vieja in Tempe.

Ms. Lori Osiecki told Committee members that her house in the West 2nd Street Historic District was chosen to be the site of a commercial being filmed. Ms. Osiecki commented that it was interesting to see the reaction of the people/camera crew when they discovered that neighborhoods like the West 2nd Street Historic District existed in Mesa.

13. Adjournment

7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory J. Marek, Historic Preservation Officer
Minutes prepared by Kathy Guthmiller