



Approved Minutes
Historic Preservation Board
 (Approved on March 3, 2015)

Date: February 3, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Jim Taylor, Chair Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D. Janice Gennevois Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. (arrived at 6:15) Louise Swann	Dane Astle	John Wesley	Donna Benge

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

2. Approval of the January 6, 2015 minutes

Board Action:

First Motion made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf to approve the minutes with amended item #10 and seconded by Vice Chair Mack-Allred. Motion carried 5-0 (Astle and Alvrus absent).

3. Introduction of new Board member Louise Swann

New Board member Swann introduced herself to the Board and gave her background and interest in historic preservation. The other board members briefly introduced themselves.

4. Presentation by Mesa's Vice-Mayor Dennis Kavanaugh, followed by discussion on strategies for creating a Downtown Historic District

Vice-Mayor Kavanaugh introduced himself to the Board and reviewed his background and interest in historic preservation. He reminded the Board of the important role they play in helping the City Council develop and set policy. They are the ones who can spend the time going into detail on a topic and the Council respects the recommendations made by their appointed boards.

Vice-Mayor Kavanaugh touched on a lot of issues regarding the importance of historic preservation to the growth, development, and maintenance of a community. He encouraged the Board to stay in contact with all the councilmembers and educate them on historic preservation.

Vice-Mayor Kavanaugh discussed the topic of creating a downtown historic district. He informed the Board there is already a designated downtown arts district. A downtown historic district would be a good addition and the two could work well together. He encouraged the Board to study this issue and prepare a report and presentation to the Council that will help them address any obstacles.

In response to questions from the Board members he discussed the history of the colonnade and the strong feelings that have existed with regards to those who think it should stay and those who think it should go. Vice-Mayor Kavanaugh encouraged the Board to consider the equity issues that will be involved and to propose a plan for façade renovations following the removal of the colonnade.

There was also some discussion regarding the possibility of the City approving funding for a full-time historic preservation officer. Vice-Mayor Kavanaugh reviewed some of the City's budget challenges, but encouraged the Board to follow up with the individual councilmember to get their response to the letter the Board sent requesting this position be filled.

5. Review and take action on a proposal authorizing the Chair to prepare and submit a letter of support for HB2337, a proposal before the legislature for creation of a state historic preservation tax credit

After a brief discussion the Board determined they did not have enough information at this time to take any action on this item. If the bill stays alive and there is more information available, it can be placed on the March agenda for consideration.

6. Review and discuss possible updates to the current HPB brochure

Board member Schaffer-Metcalf distributed her revised brochure to the Board. She stated she had not done anything with the wording, just the formatting and color scheme. She chose colors to go with the picture on the front cover. Donna Bengé mentioned the colors were similar to the colors used on the downtown walking tour brochure.

There was discussion about modifying the language to include more than just residential. The group agreed this should be looked into, but there is not much room for additional information. It would also be good to get new photographs that cover more examples of historic properties.

It was pointed out that the existing brochure was developed as a handout to residents in existing districts. The goal for the new brochure is a handout at the 2nd Friday events so it needs to cover more of the program.

7. Review and coordinate plans for HPB booth at Downtown Mesa's 2nd Friday event
 - a. Brochures: Commercial tax credit brochures (SHPO), Mesa Walking Tour, HPB meeting schedule
 - b. Banner fabrication
 - c. Lessons learned from January outing, and general discussion

There was general discussion and review of the experience at the first event and what needs to be done for the event this month. Board members Schaffer-Metcalf, Gennevois, and Alvrus agreed to be at the event this month.

8. Discuss and plan for upcoming Board retreat

The Board decided to hold a retreat on Saturday, April 25 from 10 – 3. They discussed the desire to see an archeology site, a landmark building, and tour a historic district. Various options were discussed. A decision will be made at the March meeting.

The retreat will take the place of the April meeting. There will be some business items, particularly the approval of the recipients of this year's Historic Preservation Awards that will need to be done during the retreat.

9. Update on the historic highway signage for former US Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 on Main Street

Donna Bengé told the Board the funds have been secured for the signs, we are now working with the Transportation Department on the exact locations and cost for sign erection. Board members Mack-Allred and Taylor will be meeting with the sign company for final sizing of the sign and to ensure the quality will be there.

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

Board member Alvrus invited any of the Board members to come to Mesa Grande on a Friday afternoon *"when the Mesa Community College archaeology class is working there."*

Chair Taylor discussed the request of adding professional letters behind the Board members on any and all correspondence.

Chair Taylor mentioned several items going on in the community. Mr. Taylor reached out to the Development and Sustainability newsletter and asked that they begin to cover the HPB.

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

There was discussion regarding moving forward with a report to the Council on the downtown historic district and removal of the colonnades. Mr. Wesley suggested that this will take several months to develop the background information and prepare such a report. There will be items brought to upcoming meetings to inform the Board and get direction on what should go into the report.

At next month's meeting Mr. Wesley will give a presentation on the Central Main Plan. Chair Taylor suggested there also be a presentation on the historic nature of the existing buildings.

Chair Taylor said he had talked with the City's Zoning Administrator, Gordon Sheffield about making a presentation on the sign code as it relates to historic signs. This might be a possibility for the March meeting.

We will also need to have the writing contest and HP awards on the March agenda.

12. Adjournment

Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf and seconded by Alvrus.
Motion carried 6-0.

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

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