



Approved Minutes  
**Historic Preservation Board**

**Date:** November 3, 2015

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

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

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Janice Gennevois, Chair Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair Jim Taylor Greg Marek Louise Swann	Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Laura Schaffer- Metcalf, Ed.D.	John Wesley	Vic Linoff Sandra Andrews Donna Bengé James Ruiz Linda Abbott Jeff McVay

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Gennevois called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the October 6, 2015 minutes

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

Motion carried 5-0 (Board members Alvrus and Schaffer-Metcalf absent)

3. Hear a presentation and discuss the plans for the Pioneer Park Train

Jim Ruiz and Linda Abbott of the Save Our Train Committee provided the Board with a background on the committee and the work they are doing to save the train engine in Pioneer Park. 2015 has been a good year for them and they have the funds available now to pay for moving and restoring the engine. They are working with the City Manager to put together a final proposal for how this work is to be done. They requested support from the Board to continue the effort.

Chair Gennevois asked for clarification as to how they plan to protect the train from vandalism. Ms. Abbott explained that by moving the train up to the front of the park where there is more light and visibility they believe that will do a lot to protect it. Mr. Ruiz further explained the items in the cab are the main concern for being harmed or removed. They are looking at options to have those protected by plexi-glass or some other means.

Board member Taylor asked about how they had developed their support. Mr. Ruiz stated it has been slow, but over the last couple of years as they have gotten more into the use of social media it has improved a lot. They have a Facebook page and website and have used newspaper stories. They have also restored the bell, whistle, and headlamp from the train and take those to events for display.

The Board members voiced their appreciation for the work being done and support for continued efforts.

4. Discuss the downtown shade structures and options for possible removal

Jeff McVay, City of Mesa Manager of Downtown Transformation, updated the Board on what is happening with regards to possible removal of the colonnade in the downtown area. He stated the Mayor and Council as well as the City Manager all support the idea, but there is no funding or specific project in place to make it happen. We need to have funding and a plan in place for both the removal of the colonnade and to rehab/restore the building facades.

Chair Gennevois stated that it is the vision of the Board to have a historic merchant's district. We need to protect and restore the buildings.

Board member Marek stated his agreement that removal is important for both historic preservation and economic reasons. He asked if an overall budget has been put together for the project. Mr. McVay responded that such a budget has not been established. Board member Marek emphasized the need for use of shade trees and asked how will a plan be developed and who is responsible for developing a plan to move this forward. Mr. McVay stated he would bring this up with the City Manager to get direction and report back to the Board. Chair Gennevois and Board member Marek committed to being part of a project team.

5. Update on consideration of historic designation for the Second Avenue/Pasadena area

Mr. Wesley stated he has drafted a letter to be sent out to the property owners along with the results of the survey of their property. The letter explains the survey and the interest in establishing a district in the hopes this information will encourage their participation. It is up to the neighborhood at this point, however, to carry this forward. They were going to organize an event for this fall, but as yet we do not have any information on when this would take place.

6. Update on progress for the West Side Clark local historic designation

Sandra Andrews and Jennifer Erickson from the West Side Clark neighborhood provided an update on their efforts to build support for the local designation and get signatures for the zoning application and Prop 207 Waivers. They are holding a neighborhood event on December 11, a draft flyer was distributed.

Ms. Erickson explained she was a notary and has been distributing the waivers to property owners. She has some ask questions about it that she cannot answer and asked that some information be put together to help explain this form. Mr. Wesley agreed to help provide that information.

7. Review and discuss draft memo regarding funding for a contract Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. Wesley reminded the Board that the Chair, Vice Chair, and Board member Marek had met with the Mayor and City Manager a couple of months earlier to discuss the need for a historic preservation officer. The Mayor and City Manager recommended that Mr. Wesley put together a funding request for next year's budget for a part-time *contract* historic preservation officer. Mr. Wesley stated he has started drafting the request and provided it to the Board for their consideration and comments.

Board members discussed the role this person should have and the level of duties. There was also discussion as to whether this person would be the historic preservation officer. The Board wants this person focused on carrying out the professional historic preservation duties and helping the Board move the program forward, not just carrying out the daily and administrative functions.

Mr. Wesley explained that as a part-time, contract position that may not receive long term funding, he felt that he should retain the official role as the City's Historic Preservation Officer.

This position would otherwise have all the duties and responsibilities of a historic preservation officer to the degree they can be done on a part-time basis. It would be good to be able to also provide supplementary clerical assistance, but right now that does not seem possible unless some of these funds also went to that purpose.

Board member Taylor expressed some concern that by agreeing to and moving forward with this proposal we were diluting the overall message and need for a comprehensive approach and funding for historic preservation.

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

Vice Chair Mack-Allred informed the Board that the First United Methodist Church at Center and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue is having an event on December 16 to recognize their designation as a historic building. Board members are invited to attend. The times to follow.

#### 9. Board Member comments, questions, and future agenda items

Board member Taylor suggested that the Board use the January meeting to talk about top priorities for the new year.

Mr. Wesley stated we will have the submissions for the writing contest that will need to be reviewed. We will also possibly have an update from Mr. McVay on the colonnade.

Vice Chair Mack-Allred stated we may need to start planning for the Historic Preservation Awards at this meeting.

#### 10. Adjournment

Chair Gennevois adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Marek and seconded by Vice Chair Mack-Allred. Motion carried 5-0 (Board members Alvrus and Schaffer-Metcalf 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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