

CITY OF MESA
MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: October 9, 2003

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Victor Linoff
David Dean
Pat Mendivil
Lori Osiecki
Ron Peters

STAFF PRESENT

Tony Felice
Kathy Guthmiller
Jerry Howard

OTHERS PRESENT

Sebastian Bohorquez
Dale Crandall
Shane Fox
Spencer LeSueur
Geoff Lunt
Anthon McLaws
Tanner Randall

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vince Anderson
Tracy Wright Wagner

1. Call to Order.

The October 9, 2003 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Chair Linoff welcomed members of Boy Scout Troup 556, who came to observe the Historic Preservation Committee meeting.

2. Consider Minutes of September 11, 2003 Regular Meeting.

It was moved by Ron Peters, seconded by David Dean, to RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF the September 11, 2003 Minutes, as amended.

**Vote: 5 in favor
0 opposed**

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

No items from citizens present.

4. Discuss and Consider Endangered Properties.

Committee members discussed the poster created by Ron Peters to promote the established endangered properties list.

As a result of a newspaper article about the subject, Mr. Peters noted that he had about fourteen phone calls expressing interest in the poster and inquiring if it's for sale.

Mr. Felice outlined points that the Committee needed to address, such as making sure the property owners of the endangered properties had all been contacted, determining the cost of printing the poster (staff could research), and deciding whether or not the City of Mesa logo should be included on the poster.

Mr. Peters said that he had informed Mrs. Sliger that the HPC listed the Buckhorn Motel & Baths as an endangered property. Mr. Peters also noted that the owners of Alhambra were told about their property being on the list.

Chair Linoff noted that the only property owner that still needed to be contacted was the Mesa Citrus Growers Cooperative, and Ms. Tracy Wright Wagner was planning to inform the owners of its listing to the Endangered Properties List. Ms. Wright Wagner may have already done so, but was unable to confirm this since she was absent from the meeting.

Mr. Felice added that it would be a good idea to include a Web site address on the poster so people could access more information about the properties on the Internet.

Chair Linoff suggested adding dates next to the corresponding properties on the poster.

Mr. Peters told Committee members that they could give him any changes they wanted on the poster, and he would work with staff to complete the poster.

Mr. Dean asked what City approval would be needed for the poster and press release.

Mr. Felice stated that the press release would need to be reviewed and approved by the Marketing and Communications Office.

Chair Linoff asked staff to determine if the City should have its logo on the poster.

Mr. Peters noted that he would add “the City of Mesa Historic Preservation Committee” to the poster. Mr. Peters added that he would check with various printing companies to see if they would donate printing services if the City was unable to finance printing the posters.

It was moved David Dean, seconded by Pat Mendivil, to recommend that the Endangered Properties Poster be approved with the understanding that staff and Mr. Ron Peters would work out the details on the final draft, incorporating the suggested changes.

**Vote: 5 in favor
0 opposed**

Chair Linoff showed the Committee samples of shirts and a baseball hat displaying the Tempe Historic Preservation Office’s logo, and suggested that the City of Mesa HPC consider doing the same to promote Mesa’s Historic Preservation once the logo has been established.

Committee members agreed to discuss and finalize the Historic Preservation logo at next month’s meeting.

Chair Linoff noted that it would be nice to have the shirts available to wear in time for the press conference.

Chair Linoff stated that there would be a one-time setup fee of \$75; after that, any number of shirts/hats could be ordered individually, with no set minimum.

Committee members agreed that they would contribute money to cover the setup fee, and then anyone could purchase a shirt or hat at the individual prices.

Mr. Peters said he would E-mail the logo possibility (Irving School window detail) to staff.

Committee members decided that the press conference should be scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, November 17th, to be held at the Irving School.

5. Review September’s East Valley Historic Preservation Coalition Meeting.

Chair Linoff thanked everyone who was able to attend the East Valley Historic Preservation Coalition meeting.

Chair Linoff asked Committee members how often they felt the Coalition should meet.

Mr. Dean stated that the Coalition's role should be more defined as to scale and forum; meeting about working issues that cross regional boundaries would set a different forum than would meeting just for informational purposes.

Mr. Peters suggested that just the Chairs and Vice Chairs of City Committees get together for the Coalition meetings about once every quarter, at which time agendas can be established for biannual meetings with the entire group.

Mr. Dean said that he felt the entire group might need to meet quarterly depending on emerging issues.

Mr. Peters noted that the Chairs and Vice Chairs would be representing the individual Committees, and any issue that needed action taken would be brought to the regular monthly Committee meetings for a vote or input.

Mr. Dean clarified that he just wanted to make sure the Coalition wasn't limited to meeting just twice a year.

Chair Linoff asked HPC members for any specific issues they feel would warrant discussion at a Coalition meeting.

Mr. Peters stated that the Coalition had a good discussion about the Post World War II properties at the September meeting, and noted that this issue would probably have the largest regional impact.

Mr. Dean added that locally significant properties less than fifty years old would be an important subset to study.

Mr. Dean said that determining funding sources is another vital issue to examine.

Mr. Peters agreed that funding is a very important concern that the Coalition should address.

Mr. Dean suggested that the Coalition's relationship to the Arizona Preservation Foundation should also be defined, ensuring that the two organizations are mutually supportive and not mutually exclusive.

Mr. Felice stated that the Coalition could encourage commercial lenders to fund historic preservation projects. As an example, Mr. Felice referred to the newspaper article on Bill Link, who bought a partly burned-out historic house in Phoenix. No lender is willing to finance his rehab project, even though he received a matching grant of \$100,000 from the Phoenix Historic Preservation Office.

Mr. Felice pointed out that historic preservation plays an important role in the community from an economic development standpoint by saving historic resources and creating jobs; heritage tourism is number one in the U.S. as far as generating dollars to help a community survive.

Mr. Felice said that the Coalition could work with lenders like Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Bank One to help fund historic preservation projects, not basing the loans specifically on income, but instead on the ability of the applicant to repay the loan.

Mr. Dean suggested that the Coalition could invite the various lenders to presentations (such as one held by the Humanities Council) in order to educate them on heritage tourism.

Chair Linoff informed Committee members he would keep them updated as to when the Coalition meetings are scheduled.

6. Director's Report.

Mr. Felice told Committee members that he receives numerous phone calls from people claiming they own the oldest "something." Mr. Felice stated that a distinction should be made as to what that means; was it the first of its kind, or the last remaining. That being said, Mr. Felice explained that he recently received a phone call of this kind from a reporter doing a story after being told that Mesa Royale was the oldest trailer park in Mesa. Mr. Felice noted that the Historic Preservation Office has not specifically studied trailer courts, although they may appear incidentally as part of the Post World War II study, and referred the caller to Bill Collins at the State Historic Preservation Office (because of his recent study of trailer courts).

Anecdotally, Mr. Felice said he's also had a phone call in the past about someone wanting to designate a palm tree as the first or oldest palm tree, the legitimacy of which would be difficult to establish.

Mr. Felice stated that research is almost complete on the Buckhorn Motel & Baths and Federal Building; just the UTM references need to be notated yet. Mr. Felice noted that the National Register nominations would not be held up because of this; the Historic Sites Review Committee's meeting is on October 24th.

Regarding the Arizona Temple, Mr. Felice said he explained to an official of the LDS Church that designating the Temple as a National Historic Landmark would just be an added distinction since it is already on the National Register (as a contributor to a historic district) and also locally listed.

Mr. Felice said that Church officials are a little hesitant due to issues they had with Ward churches being listed to the National Register and their subsequent efforts to alter those buildings. Mr. Felice noted that the issues with Ward churches would not likely apply to a Temple. Mr. Felice told the Committee that he was working with Walt McIver to resolve this situation.

Mr. Felice noted that the Church officials would like to discuss possibilities of economic development around the Temple, and this may be an opportunity to begin those discussions.

Regarding the potential Clark Historic District, Mr. Felice said he would like to see more opportunity from the state level to partially fund projects, such as funding just the identification of contributors and non-contributors, or funding a biographical context statement; staff is working with district representatives to resolve such challenges.

Mr. Felice handed out a description of the 2004 Neighborhood Conference (to be held January 31), and noted that HPC members should review it and let him know by the following morning if they wanted any changes to the wording, or if anyone wanted to give a presentation.

7. Update from Sandra Apsey, Mesa Room.

Chair Linoff acknowledged that Ms. Apsey was unable to be in attendance, but wanted to inform Committee members that the Mesa Room has received the grant from the Arizona Humanities Council for the Washington Park oral history project.

8. Update from Southwest Museum.

Mr. Jerry Howard stated that a lot has been happening at the Museum. Two major exhibit openings took place in the last few weeks: "Turtles: Origins to World Domination," which includes fossils and live turtles, and "From Dawn to Dawn," which is an exhibit by Craig Cheply, an artist who has done many murals inside the Museum.

Mr. Howard added that the Southwest Museum has also been busy with the archaeological program. The fence around Mesa Grande is going up, fortunately with no cultural impact to the site. The Mesa Community College archaeological field school will be held at Mesa Grande this spring, and the ASU field school may be held there the following year.

Mr. Howard noted that Museum staff has been working on a display for the hospital room on the eighth floor (across the street from Mesa Grande), where a great view of the Valley can be seen and the cultural landscape of the Hohokam can be interpreted.

Mr. Howard informed the Committee that Mesa Grande was not included on the bond election, but staff is looking into Federal appropriations. Mr. Howard noted that he would keep the HPC updated as he learns of more information.

Mr. Howard stated that work on the Pecos Road project is coming to a close, and that they had uncovered two pit houses facing each other. Mr. Howard invited Committee members to take a tour of the site.

Mr. Howard said that work has been completed on stabilizing the Pennington cabin, and passed around some reports to show Committee members pictures of the work that was done.

Mr. Howard also updated HPC members on the Verdugo stagecoach stop project, noting that the adobe walls have been stabilized. Mr. Howard stated that the roof still needed to be repaired, and the project should be wrapped up in the next six months.

Lastly, Mr. Howard informed Committee members that Museum staff has been told that they are no longer involved with the Crismon Farm project.

Mr. Dean asked about the Federal Building and noted he was concerned about the basement leak on the north side of the building.

Mr. Howard responded that Building Maintenance is looking into the problem.

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

No update was given at this month's HPC meeting.

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

Ms. Lori Osiecki noted that the Status Log could be updated to reflect that 134 North Macdonald was sold to Mark Reeb

Ms. Osiecki informed Committee members that someone in the West 2nd Street Historic District expressed concern about the lack of specific guidelines for the sizes of plaques/signage that can be placed on historic homes. Ms. Osiecki suggested the HPC discuss this as a possible future agenda item.

Chair Linoff said that for Nationally listed properties there are guidelines.

Ms. Osiecki suggested that the guidelines be made available on Mesa's Web site under Historic Preservation.

Mr. Dean said he believed there was a Preservation Brief about such signage, and he would see if he could locate it.

Chair Linoff asked about the status of Fraser Fields raising money for their National Register listing.

Mr. Felice stated that he has advised the Fraser Fields neighborhood to wait for the completion of Debbie Abele's report to provide justification for the significance of their Post World War II neighborhood.

11. Adjournment.

7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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