



Approved Minutes  
**Historic Preservation Board**

(Approved on January 6, 2015. Motion made by Board member Astle and seconded by Board member Gennevois).

**Date:** December 11, 2014

**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 Dane Astle Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D.	Bernard Dawson	John Wesley Rebecca Gorton	Mr. Jim Garrison Mr. Eric Vondy Christopher Bradley Vic Linoff

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. Approval of the October 23, 2014 minutes

Board Action: The October 23, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.

First Motion made by Vice Chair Mack-Allred to approve the minutes as written and seconded by Board member Astle.

Motion carried 6-0.

3. Receive a presentation by Mr. Jim Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer, and discuss with Mr. Garrison matters concerning the role of the State Historic Preservation Office and the functioning of the City's historic preservation program

Mr. Garrison gave an overview of the role and functions of the State Historic Preservation Office. He stated that there are thirty (30), Certified Local Governments (CLG) in the State of Arizona. The City of Florence was the first CLG and Cottonwood the last registered. Funding for the office comes from the federal government through the historic preservation fund. This fund comes from offshore mineral leases, 80% of which is off the coast of Louisiana.

Mr. Garrison introduced Mr. Eric Vondy, Preservation Incentives Programs Coordinator, who administers the grants to the CLG's. He spoke on how pass-thru grants are distributed to the local level. Mr. Vondy stated that approximately half of the state CLG's apply for the available grants. Grants are to be used for planning purposes and not as "brick and mortar" construction.

4. Update on 2015 student writing contest

Board member Schaffer-Metcalf stated that she will revisit the Mesa schools after the holidays to remind them of the writing contest. Mr. John Wesley stated he received a call from a teacher that had some questions about the contest. Chair Taylor stated that the program was mentioned in the insert that came with his recent water bill.

5. Discuss and plan to have a historic preservation booth Downtown 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday events

Chair Taylor stated he attended the recent 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday event with Vice Chair Mack-Allred to evaluate the event and to come up with some ideas of how the Board can best be promoted. Vice Chair Mack-Allred requested some items from the Planning Department such as a table, chairs, banner and other materials that can be handed out to the visitors that stop at their table.

Vice Chair Mack-Allred updated the Board on the status of the new Walking Tour pamphlet. She stated that it is close to completion. Donna Bengé is still in need of the final donation amount of \$1,500.00 before the pamphlet can be printed. It is a very popular item that could be distributed at the Downtown 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday.

Chair Taylor inquired of the Board members how many would be interested in attending and all Board members stated that they plan on attending "the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday event". Organization will continue to be coordinated through the Planning Office for completion of the requested materials.

6. Approve and sign letter to Mayor and Council outlining request for a full-time Historic Preservation Officer

Chair Taylor presented the Board members with a formal letter addressed to the Mayor and each Councilmember outlining the need for a full-time Historic Preservation Officer. Chair Taylor requested that each Board member sign the individual letters.

Board member Schaffer-Metcalfé asked how the Board would know the outcome of the request. Mr. Wesley stated that the process begins with Council adopting the budget and if passed, the position would be approved. He suggested that the Chair follow up with the Council in a few weeks. Chair Taylor stated that he intends to follow up with the Mayor and Council. Board member Astle suggested that Councilmembers and Mayor be invited to attend a HPB meeting.

Board Action: First Motion was made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalfé to accept the letters as written, to be signed and distribute to City Council and City Mayor. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mack-Allred.

Motion carried 6-0.

7. View and provide comment on the updated historic properties webpage:  
<http://gistest.mesaaz.gov/historicproperties/>

Mr. John Wesley revealed a webpage in the development stage that was created by the IT department showing Historic properties. Mr. Wesley stated that a final version should be completed within the next few months. Chair Taylor suggested that this webpage be viewed at their public Outreach table.

8. Discuss and develop strategies for storage of orphaned Neon Sign

Chair Taylor began by discussing his concern that historic signs are not being preserved. Mr. Taylor stated that he recently attended a City meeting discussing the proposed changes to the City sign ordinance. Mr. Taylor attended the meeting to express the Board's interest in being involved with the changes as there is a section devoted to Historic Signs. Staff member Gordon Sheffield provided Chair Taylor with some insight of the challenges to the historic signs, one being that the height requirements have changed. When a new building permit is issued on a property, often times the existing sign height is not in compliance and it must be removed.

Chair Taylor is particularly concerned that the sign at the recently closed Bill Johnson's restaurant will be destroyed. Mr. Taylor stated that he has made several attempts to contact the owners of the Bill Johnson's to discuss what the owner's plans are for the sign and has yet to hear back from them. Resident Chris Bradley suggested that if the signs offer some value they could be donated and at the least receive a tax break. It was suggested that this could be an incentive for the business to donate the signs to the Historic Preservation Foundation.

Chair Taylor challenged the Board members as they are speaking to the community to discuss where and how we could secure these signs as they are being orphaned. He stated that the sign ordinance is being reviewed with the exception of the historic sign section and Mr. Sheffield stated that he wants to revisit it when the entire ordinance is updated. Chair Taylor asked Board member Schaffer-Metcalfé to prepare some bullet points to speak about when the Board meets with the public during the Downtown 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday event.

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

Chair Taylor discussed the need to update the tri-fold brochure as soon as possible. Vice Chair Mack-Allred will work with staff on updating the brochure and Chair Taylor asked all members to submit any suggestions directly to Rebecca Gorton. Board member Astle suggested that the brochure be digitized.

10. Discuss status of efforts to establish historic district(s) or landmark(s) for:

a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Pasadena

Vice Chair Mack-Allred reported that the last 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue neighborhood meeting took place on December 4. There were fourteen (14) residents that attended the meeting. The consultant Mr. Vince Murray spoke to the residents and explained that photos will be taken of each property and then an inventory form completed. The next step is for the City to provide background checks for each volunteer. "Chair Taylor and Board member Schaffer-Metcalf were in attendance".

b. Federal Building

There is no update.

c. Buckhorn Baths

Mr. Linoff stated that an article will be published in the newspaper quoting the City Manager, Mr. Brady that the sale should close by the end of the year.

d. Downtown

There is no update.

e. Citrus Growers Building

Mr. John Wesley stated that the company looking to purchase the property has received an extension and is still considering the property.

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

Vice Chair Mack-Allred stated that they are still in need of \$1,500.00 for the signs to be made and installed.

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

Chair Taylor attended and made a presentation to the Downtown Vision Committee which is a group appointed by the Mayor. Mr. Taylor discussed what the Board has done, is doing and wants to do. This is a Mayor appointed Board and he asked Mr. Wesley to share more information. Mr. Wesley stated that this committee was appointed to bring together the downtown and to develop a vision for the downtown area.

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

Board member Alvrus suggested that the brochures and Walking Tour pamphlet be developed as an app which would be more sustainable than paper copies. Mr. Wesley stated that the City IT Department does develop apps and they may be able to develop this.

An item to be added to the January, 2015 agenda is the discussion of the QR Codes for the Light Rail Station Historic Panels.

14. Adjournment

Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf and seconded by Vice Chair Mack-Allred. 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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