



Draft Minutes of the  
**Historic Preservation Board**

**Date:** April 26, 2012

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

**Location:** 20 E. Main, Room 170

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>
Donna Benge, Chair Jared Smith, Vice-Chair Chad Cluff Randy Mann	Wendy Mack – Allred Barbara Jarrett	John Wesley Julie Smiley
<b>Guests</b>		
Jerry Willis; Resident Debra Willis; Resident Patricia Willis; Resident Chris Bradley; Resident Janice Gennevios; Resident Sarah Moorhead; Resident	Ray Harrison; Resident Maria Mancinas; Resident Rosetta Blake; Resident Maurice White; Resident Doris Henderson; Resident Vic Linoff; Mesa Preservation Foundation	

**1) Call meeting to order.**

The April 26, 2012 meeting of the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) was called to order at 6:26 p.m.

Chair Benge requested the introduction of the guests at this time.

**2) Approval of the March 22, 2012 and meeting and April 14, 2012 retreat minutes.**

Chair Benge requested on item #11 from the March 22, 2012 minutes to change the name from Mr. Jerry Howard to Dr. Jerry Howard. Vice Chair Smith requested on item #2 from the April 14, 2012 minutes to include the discussion with Save the Train and iMesa Committee.

The Board unanimously agreed the corrected minutes will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

**3) Receive presentations and discuss establishment of a historic district(s) for:**

- a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Pasadena area
- b. Washington Park-Escobedo area
- c. Downtown area

Items (b) and (c) were reviewed and discussed.

**a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Pasadena area** – No discussion

**b. Washington Park-Escobedo area**

Several residents of the Washington Park-Escobedo area were in attendance for support and to provide a brief presentation on their personal history within the neighborhood.

Ms. Maria Mancias started off the presentation along with additional speakers including Mr. Ray Harrison, Ms. Rosetta Blake, Ms. Patricia Willis, and Mr. Jerry Willis. The presentations included interesting and prominent family histories dating from the early 1900's to current times. All of these presentations are a great foundation to help designate an historic neighborhood and preserve its history.

Resident Mr. Willis had a question as to what other historic neighborhoods are in the area, and also

gave a brief presentation of his personal connection to the neighborhood. Mr. Wesley responded to the question noting some of the historic neighborhoods are Evergreen, Wilbur, Temple, Frazer Fields, Second Street, and Westside Clark.

Chair Bengé suggested the neighbors provide written biographies of the mentioned famous people who lived in the Washington Park-Escobedo area such as: the first African American Mesa Council member; Calvin Good, NFL football player; Pete Manly, and the first African American Mesa high school coach; Willie Pete. Mr. Wesley followed up stating the residents should also document, whether written or audio recorded their own personal history within the neighborhood, and include family photographs. This information will be crucial in helping to move forward with the historic designation.

Resident Ms. Moorhead noted the library has some Washington Park-Escobedo historical transcriptions that could benefit the residents in compiling historical information.

Resident Ms. Gennevois offered the Washington Park-Escobedo residents her assistance to help with the needed criteria and/or support for the historic designation of their neighborhood.

Resident Mr. Bradley asked the question of what benefits come out of having an historical neighborhood. Mr. Wesley responded noting several benefits arise from a local and national designation such as preserving property values and or property tax credits to name a few.

**c. Downtown area**

Mr. Linoff gave an update regarding a proposed commercial historical district along the Light Rail route. It was noted that a meeting with the property owners must take place first, and will need to obtain their consent in order to move forward with the designation. At this time, there is nothing the HPB can do but to be ready to give support in designating a historic commercial district.

Board member Cluff asked what benefits are available for a historic commercial district. Mr. Linoff responded stating it is similar to neighborhood districts in that it helps to preserve some historical buildings. However, there is also city prestige, as well as tax credits to name a few.

Mr. Linoff offered to provide the HPB graphic renderings of a proposed commercial district with the incorporation of the Light Rail, and will continue to provide updates as they come available.

**4) Discuss and develop strategies for assisting in the preservation of Buckhorn Baths.**

This item was reviewed and discussed.

Chair Bengé noted she would draft a letter to Council with input from the Board endorsing the Buckhorn Baths.

Mr. Linoff gave a brief update. He noted at the previous Council meeting a recommendation was made to acquire the Buckhorn Baths, and the letter will help to gain support of this potential City action.

**5) Discuss and develop strategies for historic highway signage for former US Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 on Main Street.**

This item was reviewed and discussed.

Mr. Wesley gave an update stating discussions from the retreat were to come up with more graphic designs. Also, Mr. Wesley has received positive feedback from the Transportation Department and is waiting for information from the Public Information Office (PIO). Mr. Wesley will continue working on this process, and will provide updates as they come available.

**6) Discuss and develop strategies for updating the downtown historic signage.**

This item was reviewed and discussed.

Board member Mann gave an update on the downtown historic signs. He visited a majority of the sign locations noting that some were missing, need to be repaired, replaced, or seems to be still functional. Board member Mann also noted that several owners were interested, but unsure how to restore or replace the historic signs. He will continue to visit the remaining sites and will provide updates as they come available.

Chair Bengé suggested the HPB should start over with the historic property sign designations in an effort to update the property listing. Also, Mr. Linoff suggested incorporating the signs with the light rail panels to help tie in the historic buildings.

**7) Discuss contents of a letter that can be used to inform Councilmembers regarding historic preservation accomplishments and initiatives.**

This item was reviewed and discussed.

Chair Bengé noted she will create talking points in which the Board members will schedule to meet with City Council members noting the Board's accomplishments and recommendation to hire a full-time Preservation Officer.

Chair Bengé requested staff to email the HPB members with the Council districts.

**8) Receive update on and discuss:**

- a. Proposed Interpretive Historic Panels – Light Rail Stations;
- b. Historic Preservation Awards;
- c. Historic preservation program for Mesa Public Schools;
- d. Wilbur historic district issues presented at the last HPB meeting.

These items were reviewed and discussed.

**a. Proposed Interpretive Historic Panels – Light Rail Stations**

Vice Chair Smith noted the panels are in discussion and reviewing photographs, in which a meeting is scheduled for mid-May. He hopes to have more information to report at the next meeting.

Resident Mr. Bradley asked how the panels are to be displayed. Vice Chair Smith responded noting the photographs will go through a process in which the images will be converted to metal panels.

**b. Historic Preservation Awards**

The awards have been approved, and in the process of being creating. Chair Bengé noted the Council meeting of May 21, 2012, and requested all HPB members to attend if available. Mr. Wesley will be mailing the letters to the winners.

**c. Historic preservation program for Mesa Public Schools**

Chair Bengé and Board member Mann noted they wanted to set up a subcommittee to discuss preservation programs for the next school year.

**d. Wilbur historic district issues presented at the last HPB meeting**

Mr. Wesley noted various City departments worked with the Wilbur Neighborhood to fix the hanging power lines that were posing a safety concern. Resident Ms. Gennevios gave her thanks and appreciation to staff and the Board for their help.

Ms. Gennevios also noted that at this time she understands there is nothing more that can be done with the remaining hanging wires. However, she would like the neighborhood to be included; if possible to give suggestions on the development of Site 17. Resident Mr. Bradley asked if Site 17 is developed, could the inactive power lines be buried underground. Mr. Wesley responded stating it is possible, but would depend on how the site is developed.

**9) Updates on all Museum, Exhibits, Committees and Events related to Historic Preservation.**

Chair Bengé noted Mesa Grande will be opening a visitor's center sometime in the fall. Also, members are welcome to attend the Southwest Archeology team meeting at the Museum of Natural History on May 3, 2012. Some topics to be discussed are the past, present and future of the Mesa Grande mound along with new discoveries, as well as updates on the Riverview project.

Vice Chair Smith gave an update on the Pioneer Park Committee noting the iMesa votes are up to 113 for the train. The committee is also in the process of scheduling a strategy retreat. Their goal is to ensure they are on track, and involved with certain design processes in an effort to make sure the public is aware of, and support the project.

Mr. Wesley noted the agenda should start including the discussion of the 2013 Historic Preservation Conference. Mr. Linoff responded noting the Foundation is working with the Convention Visitor's Bureau and the Mesa Marriott to host next year. Mr. Linoff will keep the HPB updated as more information comes available.

Mr. Linoff noted the Foundation continues to raise donations for the Diving Lady project. Also, he noted the Mesa Historical Museum will be hosting a soft opening on Friday, May 4, 2012 for the baseball, Bowling and Cactus league exhibits, as well as displays of original art from the Buckhorn Baths.

**10) Committee Member Comments, Questions, and Future Agenda Items.**

This item was reviewed and discussed.

Chair Bengé requested to keep all agenda items, and add the discussion on Lehi area to item 3, and to add discussion of a workshop for 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Washington Park-Escobedo neighborhoods.

**11) Adjournment.**

Chair Bengé adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.