

**CITY OF MESA**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
***HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE***

**DATE:** June 3, 2005      **TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
Chair David Dean Vince Anderson Lane Burdick Ron Peters	Lisha Adela García Amy Morales Aimée Letwen Angela Duncan	Barnaby Lewis Shane Anton Evelyn Andrews
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>		
Pat Mendivil Victor Linoff		

At 6:18 PM reports were given because there were not enough committee members present for a quorum. The members decided to hear reports that did not require a quorum until enough members arrived to call the meeting to order.

**Report: Mesa Historical Museum – Lisa Anderson (agenda item 9)**

Ms. Anderson reported that the annual election will be held June 16, and the new board members will be voted in. Eight new members will be joining the board.

Ms. Anderson reported that work is progressing on the Heritage Grant received and work has begun to replace the auditorium doors. She added that the major construction is scheduled to take place in July, which would force the museum to close for a short period.

Ms. Anderson stated that the museum is currently operating under the summer hours of 9 AM – 1 PM, Tuesday through Saturday.

Ms. Anderson also reported that a newsletter would be sent out soon.

**Report: Mesa Southwest Museum – Jerry Howard (agenda item 8)**

Mr. Howard reported on three new exhibits: “Tusks”, an exhibit on mammals and mastadons; an exhibit on Navajo Saddle Blankets; and “Whales”, an exhibit of mounted skeletons of sea mammals, whales and other sea creatures.

Mr. Howard stated that work at the Riverview Project is almost complete. He added that Phase 2, which is in the western portion of the site, is also almost complete. Mr. Howard reported that a small, encapsulated area of what is believed to be about a dozen pit houses was discovered. The data recovery phase is ready to begin in that area, so the excavation of the pit houses will soon begin. Mr. Howard stated that the two other pit houses previously found in the southern area have been excavated and that project has been completed.

Mr. Howard reported that work using infrared bands and satellite imagery that follows the canals is continuing with ASU Professor Michael Barton.

Mr. Howard stated that the museum is also working with another ASU professor and a colleague of his in England to do Optical Spin Luminescent dating. The form of dating technique works well with the canals and may provide a good opportunity to address questions about how quickly the canals filled with sediments and other scientific questions. The cost for the dating is high. After running a few dates and doing a pilot study, the museum may apply to the National Science Foundation for a grant.

Further discussion on this project was held regarding approaching the developer to preserve some (or sections) of the historic sites/canals. Committee member Ron Peters offered to draft a letter to the developer for committee consideration.

Mr. Howard concluded the discussion by extending an invitation to the City Council members to tour the Riverview site.

**Historic Preservation Office Project Status Report: June, 2005; Committee to discuss the following: (agenda item 5)**

- a) **Status of Irving School – Amy Morales and Lisha García.** Ms. Morales reported that Swan Architects is the consultant preparing the building condition and assessment report that the Historic Preservation Office expects to receive the report June 8, 2005.

Ms. Morales stated that Mesa Public Schools and MCC are working with BPLW to determine what renovations need to be done in order for the building to be occupied. The City is the current owner and Arts and Cultural Division are using the building to house their art collection. Arrangements are being made to move the collection to a new facility.

Ms. García added that Irving School received a CDBG grant for \$70,000 to bring the school into ADA compliance. Discussion followed regarding the current quarter million dollar renovations to the building and the use / reprogramming of CDBG grant funding. Ms. García offered to contact David Peterson for follow up.

- b) **Section 106 Programmatic Agreement – Lisha García.** Ms. García reported that the City Attorney’s Office advised that the draft Section 106 Programmatic Agreement should be rewritten. Ms. García explained that the second draft is very basic and is similar to the agreement used by the City of Phoenix. The Committee was asked to provide comments on the revised draft agreement.

Discussion followed regarding language limiting the programmatic agreement to HUD funded program activities, the scope of undertakings, experience of staff performing the Section 106 reviews, and the draft ordinance regarding the fee schedule for Section 106 reviews. Chair Dean expressed concerns about rushing into an agreement without fully understanding the impact across the City. Ms. García offered to email the fee schedule draft ordinance to the Committee members.

- c) **Status on Alston House – Lisha García.** Ms. García reported that the meeting held with Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens and Habitat for Humanity resulted in the project going back to square one. Deal points will need to be renegotiated. The applicants were urged to contact the Historic Preservation Committee for expertise and assistance with the building assessment. It was strongly suggested to applicants to get the recommendation of support from the Committee to take to the City Council.

- d) **Discuss Escobedo Housing Project / Washington Park – Lisha García.** Ms. García reported that an area has been established in the Escobedo Housing Office to honor the Escobedo brothers, (housing namesakes) who fought in World War II.

Ms. García also reported that the Historic Preservation Office is starting to look at the period of affordability, and the best use of the Uniform Relocation Act.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of having a historical documentation report completed for the Escobedo Housing.

- e) **Discuss Adobe’s in Nuestro – Lisha García.** Ms. García suggested a tour of the Nuestro Neighborhood for the Committee to view the adobe structures.

- f) **Status on the Biggs House – Amy Morales and Lisa Anderson.** Ms. Morales reported that the Biggs House is still privately owned. The owner, Al Ruiz, is interested in restoration if he can obtain funding. Ms. Morales provided Mr. Ruiz with both private and public funding source information.

Ms. Morales stated that the additions made to the house had been torn down; the original building is still standing.

Ms. Anderson added that Mr. Ruiz has met with the Lehi Community group. The group indicated to her that Mr. Ruiz would be amenable to donating the house to the Mesa Historical Museum; however he would be willing to do this if the Lehi Community group could obtain the funding to move the house to the museum property.

Ms. Anderson expressed concerns regarding the feasibility of moving the house and keeping it historically preserved. Ms. Anderson reported that she asked the Lehi Community group to contact Mr. Ruiz to see if he would be willing to donate the house and land. The museum has pledged to take the house if it could be operated as a separate historic site, an interpretive site.

Discussion followed regarding potential tax credits or other types of incentives that may be available to preserve the Biggs House.

1. **Call to Order**

At 7:20 PM, enough Committee members were present for a quorum and the meeting was called to order.

2. **Discuss and consider Draft Indian Burial Agreement for the City of Mesa, presentation by Tom Wilson, Director of the Southwest Museum. Guest speakers – Barnaby Lewis and Shane Anton (agenda item 4)**

Mr. Wilson presented the draft Indian Burial Agreement. The Committee was asked to make a recommendation to the City Council for the authorization of the City Manager to execute the burial agreement.

Mr. Wilson explained that the burial agreement would provide the mechanism to get all the parties involved in consultation. He added that in the absence of a general agreement, individual agreements would be needed for project specific occurrences, which could result in dozens or hundreds of agreements.

Discussion followed regarding which Native American groups would be represented and/or parties to the agreement. Mr. Lewis, the Culture Resource Specialist for Gila River Indian Community, explained the consensus agreement of the Four Southern Tribes that certain geographical areas will be attended to by the closest community to the project. Mr. Anton, the NAGPRA Coordinator of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, further clarified that internal monthly meetings are held to discuss issues and to make sure that the other communities are represented properly and collectively.

A motion was moved by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Ron Peters to recommend that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a burial agreement for the City of Mesa substantially similar to the attached draft agreement.

Vote: 4 in favor  
0 opposed

**3. Consider Minutes of the May 12, 2005 Regular Meeting (agenda item 2)**

It was moved by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Ron Peters to recommend approval of the May 12, 2005 Minutes as amended.

Vote: 4 in favor  
0 opposed

**4. Discuss the Post World War II Neighborhood Study – Lisha García (agenda item 3)**

Ms. García reported that due to the large size of the Tempe study, only the executive summary was distributed to the Committee, and that a copy of the entire report will be made available for review at the Mesa Room.

Discussion was held regarding work-load back up and delays in the housing rehabilitation program caused by the State Historic Preservation Office returning Section 106 reviews.

**5. Discuss HPC 2005/2006 Program Year Meeting Calendar Options (agenda item 6)**

Discussion of the HPC 2005/2006 Program Year Meeting Calendar was deferred to the July meeting agenda in order to obtain feedback from the new Committee members.

**6. Report: Mesa Public Library, Mesa Room (agenda item 7)**

No report given.

**7. Committee Member Comments and Questions and Future Agenda Items (agenda item 10)**

Committee members discussed the following items to be included in next month's agenda:

- a) Continued Historic Preservation Office status updates on
  - 1) Irving School

- 2) Alston House
- 3) Escobedo Housing Project / Washington Park
- 4) Adobe's in Nuestro
- 5) Biggs House
- b) National Register Nominations
- c) Grant Opportunities
- d) HPC August recess
- e) Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Processes
- f) Report on the Historic Preservation Conference
- g) New Committee member training

**8. Items from Citizens Present (no action can be taken) (agenda item 11)**

No items from citizens present.

**9. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Allen, Historic Preservation Officer  
*Minutes prepared by Aimée Letwen*