

CITY OF MESA
MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: February 8, 2001 **TIME:** 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Victor Linoff
David Dean
Vince Anderson
Pat Mendivil
Lori Osiecki

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Guthmiller
Greg Marek
Amy Morales

OTHERS PRESENT

Lynn Kusy
E R Porter
Sandie Rossing

MEMBERS ABSENT

Boyd Thacker
Dan Eccles

1. Call to Order

The February 8, 2001 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. Consider Minutes of January 11, 2001 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Vince Anderson, seconded by Pat Mendivil, to **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE January 11, 2001 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. Presentation by Lynn Kusy regarding buildings at Williams Gateway Airport

Mr. Lynn Kusy displayed an aerial photo of the Williams Gateway Airport area. Mr. Kusy stated that when the Air Force found out the facility had to be closed as a result of Congressional action, one of the things they had to do was evaluate the buildings on the facility to see if any were eligible for nomination to the National Register. Mr. Kusy presented the inventory of buildings that the Air Force compiled, pointing out locations on the aerial map and providing pertinent information.

Chair Linoff acknowledged the importance of recognizing the historical value of buildings at Williams Gateway as assets and not liabilities.

Mr. Kusy invited Historic Preservation Committee members to take a tour of the Williams Gateway Airport facilities.

Historic Preservation Committee members thanked Mr. Kusy for his presentation, and expressed interest in going on a tour of the facilities.

5. Discuss 2001 Historic Preservation Awards Program

Mr. Greg Marek updated the Historic Preservation Committee on the upcoming 2001 Historic Preservation Awards Program. Mr. Marek distributed packets, which included instructions and a nomination form. The deadline for submitting applications is March 9th, 2001.

Chair Linoff suggested having the packets and nomination forms available at the Library.

Mr. Marek added that they could also be placed on the web site for easy access.

Mr. Marek stated that the award recipients would be recognized at a City Council meeting in May, which is "Historic Preservation Month."

Ms. Lori Osiecki asked if there was any type of plaque or documentation on display in the Mesa Room of the Library or anywhere else, acknowledging past recipients of Historic Preservation Awards.

Mr. Marek noted that Staff would look into it.

6. Update on Historic Preservation Plan

Mr. Marek stated that the City is updating the Master Plans for the General Plan, Transportation Plan, Economic Development Plan, and the Parks and Recreation Plan. The first draft will be ready around the end of June 2001. Mr. Marek recommended completing a draft of the Historic Preservation Plan by June, in order for relevant information to be applied to the Master Plan update at the same time.

Mr. Marek said that the Redevelopment Office/Historic Preservation Office will be putting together a 5-year Strategic Plan. A Concept Plan has already been approved for the Downtown Redevelopment Area, which essentially provides a 5-year Action Plan of what needs to be undertaken. A Retail Recruitment Plan that has a 5-year time horizon is also in place for the Redevelopment Office. The Historic Preservation Office currently does not have the same type of Action Plan.

Mr. Marek noted that Debbie Abele has been hired to formulate a Historic Preservation Plan, the first draft being due in June 2001 in order to be part of the overall Master Plan efforts. Ms. Abele will first examine the organization. This includes reviewing the following:

- I. Historic Preservation Ordinance
 - (a) policies
 - (b) administrative procedures
 - (c) work program activities
- II. Historic Preservation Committee
 - (a) powers

- (b) responsibilities
- (c) composition
- (d) training
- (e) program budget
- (f) resources needed
- (g) public information
- (h) community education
- (i) compare other City plans and policies

This assessment should be done by the end of February. The next step will be for Ms. Abele to conduct a program assessment, determining what has been done well, and what could be improved on. Ms. Abele will look at a participatory process to identify opportunities and historic and cultural resource needs that could make the program more effective. She will also evaluate the organizational structure and working relationship within the city government, identifying public/private preservation partners and preparing an outline of the plan.

In the Preservation Plan itself, Ms. Abele will identify the policies, programs and activities that have been undertaken in other communities and determine if they could be beneficial to the City of Mesa's Historic Preservation Program. She will obtain input from historic property owners and the community as needed. Ms. Abele will handle the necessary presentation briefings with elected officials. A plan will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Board for review and comment. Recommendations for implementation of the plan will be put together, including budgetary recommendations and a schedule.

The goal is to have the City Council adopt the plan as a stand-alone document, just as they did the Concept Plan. Mr. Marek stated that as the General Plan and Transportation Plan are being implemented, he wants to ensure Historic Preservation Plan will be a part of them.

7. Discuss and Consider Historic District Sign Installation

Ms. Amy Morales presented comments received on the revised Historic District street sign. A common suggestion for improvement was to have an easier to read font, with bolder letters.

8. View Video: "Arizona's Towns – Planning the Past, Saving the Future," Produced for the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the National Parks Service by the Joint Urban Design Program, Arizona State University

The Committee decided it would be easier to have the Committee members individually view the video at their leisure.

9. Director's Report

a.) Update on Historic Preservation Program Issues.

Mr. Marek stated that the Mendoza House will be on next month's agenda for consideration of obtaining "Local Landmark" status.

Mr. Marek noted that Don Ryden has completed about 1/3 of the Preservation Plan for the Wilbur Historic District.

The Fire Station design should be up for review and discussion at the April Historic Preservation Committee meeting. Don Ryden is finalizing an "opinion of appropriateness" to relate design compatibility issues with the Wilbur Neighborhood, and what needs to be focused on. Mr. Ryden's report will serve as a case study for possible future occurrences of development projects within and adjacent to a Historic District, and determine how the Secretary of the Interior's standards should be applied.

Mr. Don Ryden has also been hired to survey two hangars at Falcon Field Airport, to determine potential eligibility for the National Register.

Mr. Marek acknowledged a request to look into demolishing a small, termite-infested house at 424 E Kimball (in the Temple District), and found there was no architectural merit to prevent demolition.

Mr. Marek stated that the County has purchased the old hospital building adjacent to Mesa Grande, and is moving their clinic to that location.

10. Committee Member Comments and Questions and Future Agenda Items

Mr. David Dean noted that the next HSRC meeting is March 9th, and he believed that the Temple District might be on that agenda.

Mr. Dean informed Historic Preservation Committee members about the Arizona Preservation Foundation (APF), and how to become a member and obtain an informative newsletter.

Mr. Marek stated that a grant request has been submitted in order to be reimbursed for the Wilbur Preservation Plan.

Mr. Marek made sure Committee members were aware of the 9% budget cut, and possible effects it may have on the professional/contractual area of the Historic Preservation program.

Ms. Mendivil noted the Serrine House open house event on Saturday, February 10th.

Mr. Marek touched on landscaping issues dealing with the Serrine House.

Chair Linoff suggested having the Serrine House landscaping issue as an agenda item for further discussion.

Chair Linoff commented on the media coverage and success of the Mesa Historical Museum's "Historic Home and Garden Tour," and thanked the City of Mesa for its supportive role.

11. Adjournment

5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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