

CITY OF MESA
MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: April 10, 2003 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Victor Linoff
Vince Anderson
Ron Peters
Tracy Wright Wagner

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Marek
Tony Felice
Kathy Guthmiller
Angelica Docog
Bryan Raines

OTHERS PRESENT

Christi Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Dean
Lori Osiecki
Pat Mendivil

1. Call to Order

The April 10, 2003 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Consider Minutes of March 13, 2003 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Tracy Wright Wagner, seconded by Ron Peters, to RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF the March 13, 2003 Minutes, as amended.

**Vote: 4 in favor
 0 opposed**

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

Ms. Christi Miller updated Committee members on her work program as a Vista volunteer, showing them a poster-sized map of the Roosevelt Historic District in Phoenix as an example of what she is working to produce for Mesa's Historic Districts. Ms. Miller stated that she attended a grant-writing workshop at the Arizona Humanities Council and they are interested in having her submit a proposal for funding to cover the cost of Mr. Don Ryden's fees as an architectural historian. Ms. Miller noted that details of the map would be worked out after the concept gets approved for funding.

Ms. Miller also informed the Committee that she and Tracy Wright Wagner, along with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), have been working on arranging a lecture for Historic Preservation Week. Ms. Miller stated that her hope is to hold a quarterly lecture workshop as part of the rehab funding program. Ms. Miller said that she spoke with Southeast Valley Realtors Association and they agreed to fax information to all of their members about the various lectures. Mr. Jim Garrison of SHPO has agreed to give the opening lecture at the Library for Historic Preservation Week; his lecture will focus on the economic benefits of historic preservation. Ms. Miller suggested that the quarterly lecture workshop series could be held in conjunction with the following historic preservation-related events: Territorial Days, Historic Homes Tour, Historic Preservation Week and Archaeology Awareness Week.

Ms. Miller stated that she and Mr. Tony Felice met with the Clark Historic District, and she is looking into ways of funding the cost of hiring a historian.

Ms. Miller told Committee members that the Encanto Palmcroft Historic Home and Garden Tour would be on April 13th, and their website is www.encantopalmcroft.org.

4. Discuss and Consider the 2003 Historic Preservation Awards Nominations

HPC members discussed the four nominations received for the 2003 Historic Preservation Awards Program. The nominees were assigned letters (A, B, C, D) and referred to by such instead of disclosing their names during the discussion.

After considerable deliberation, Committee members agreed that three of the nominees were worthy of receiving the Historic Preservation Award for their historic preservation efforts.

It was moved by Ron Peters, seconded by Vince Anderson, to present the 2003 Historic Preservation Awards to Virginia Aguero, Arlene McCabe and Walt McIver.

**Vote: 4 in favor
0 opposed**

5. Discuss and Consider an Endangered Properties List

Committee members reviewed a list of five potentially endangered properties that they talked about at last month's meeting (Mesa Grande, Buckhorn Baths, Citrus Groves, Irving School, Alhambra Hotel).

Mr. Marek suggested that properties on the list should have an explanation of why they are considered endangered, and include a photo.

Chair Linoff asked if Committee members had any more properties to add to the list.

Mr. Vince Anderson said that the Mesa Citrus Growers building might be endangered.

Chair Linoff asked if it had been identified in a survey as historically significant.

Mr. Felice noted that it was in the 1993 Woodward Survey.

Mr. Peters said he felt that the Mesa Citrus Growers building is probably just as much at risk of being lost as the Irving School or Mesa Grande. Mr. Peters also stated that this building has been mentioned as an item of concern at previous HPC meetings, and he would be supportive of it being identified on the endangered properties list in order to call attention to it.

Mr. Anderson noted that he felt the purpose of the endangered properties list was to identify, and call attention to, potentially historic properties that the community may otherwise overlook.

Committee members talked about notifying the owners of properties on the endangered list so they would be aware of the list.

Chair Linoff added that the level of risk needs to somehow be substantiated in order to justify the properties being listed as endangered. As much history as possible should be gathered about the properties.

Ms. Tracy Wright Wagner asked if there was a distinction between "endangered" and "at risk," if endangered implies a more immediate threat.

Chair Linoff acknowledged that from the National Register's definition of endangered properties, he also understood it to mean properties that are at immediate risk. Chair Linoff suggested that the list being established by the Committee may need to be renamed in order to avoid confusion.

Mr. Marek reminded Committee members that properties on the National Register are not protected as they are with a local designation, in which case there would be a 6-month stay of demolition.

Mr. Ron Peters volunteered to write up the National Register nomination for Buckhorn Baths, and added he would also be willing to do the research and prepare a nomination for the Citrus Growers building if the Committee wished.

Mr. Peters agreed with Mr. Anderson that the Citrus Growers building is a significant building in the downtown area and could be at risk of being lost.

Chair Linoff thanked Mr. Peters for being willing to work on these projects and put together the supporting documentation.

Mr. Marek asked the Committee when they wanted to finalize and release the endangered properties list, since Historic Preservation Week begins prior to the next HPC meeting.

Chair Linoff requested that the reasons for adding the property to the endangered list be incorporated, and at the next meeting Committee members can review the document to be released.

Ms. Wright Wagner suggested that criteria be established for properties being placed on the endangered properties list.

Mr. Marek noted that the list could be updated each year as to the status of the properties (e.g. lost, saved, status unchanged).

Committee members also discussed the loss of citrus groves.

Mr. Peters stated that the citrus groves are an important landscape feature to the community; as we lose citrus groves, we lose some of our historic culture. Mr. Peters pointed out that saving some of Mesa's citrus groves would be comparable to Scottsdale preserving the Sonoran Desert by passing a bond issue to save it. Mr. Peters said that even though the desert is a natural environment and the citrus groves are man made, both are an important part of our culture. Mr. Peters noted development guidelines could be geared towards preserving citrus groves.

Mr. Marek commented that clarification would be needed as to which specific citrus groves should be preserved.

Committee members decided to take more time in establishing an endangered properties list in order to provide the appropriate documentation.

Chair Linoff offered to work on a preamble or explanation of the endangered properties list.

Mr. Felice noted that the history of the Alhambra Hotel, Irving School and Mesa Grande is available from the City's website. The background information still needed would be for Buckhorn Baths (which Mr. Peters will research), and the citrus groves (definition, location, history).

Chair Linoff added that also needed would be an explanation of why these properties are at risk.

Mr. Marek said that he could have a draft of the endangered properties list for the Committee to review at their May meeting.

Mr. Peters commented that he believed several years ago there was a document or an ordinance put in place by the City to identify the citrus groves and other areas significant to the community that needed to be developed sensitively.

6. Discuss Historic Preservation Week

Chair Linoff reminded HPC members that the Historic Preservation Awards would be presented at the May 5th City Council meeting, in conjunction with Historic Preservation Week.

7. Director's Report

Mr. Marek informed Committee members about the State Historic Preservation Conference to be held June 26-28 in Chandler. Mr. Marek noted that he was applying to SHPO for scholarships to pay for the conference registration fee of \$75 per person.

Mr. Marek said there were also scholarships for the National Trust Fall conference in Denver; applications are due by May 1st.

Mr. Marek stated that next month's agenda will include a follow-up discussion on the HPC retreat to come up with an action plan.

Mr. Marek informed Committee members that the 2003/2004 Historic Preservation Office budget includes the post war study discussed at prior meetings. Currently, staff is working with Debbie Abele on a professional services contract. Mr. Marek noted that staff has been asked to speak on one of the panels at the statewide conference regarding how post war properties should be addressed.

Mr. Marek updated Committee members that Mr. Felice had resolved the miscommunication regarding the Arizona Temple's nomination to the National Register, so it should move forward.

8. Update from Sandra Apsey, Mesa Room

Ms. Apsey was unable to be in attendance.

9. Update from Southwest Museum

Ms. Angelica Docog, interim director for the Mesa Southwest Museum, informed Committee members that the Mesa Southwest Museum may be hosting next year's Archaeology Expo. The event would be held during Archaeology Month, in March.

Ms. Docog told HPC members that the Serrine House continues to be very popular, largely due to the "Seasons for Sharing" educational program. A grant was received from the Arizona Republic for over \$100,000 for educational programs specifically geared towards underserved schools; one of those programs is the Serrine House.

Ms. Docog informed Committee members that panning for gold has been popular in the Museum's courtyard.

Ms. Docog noted that the train exhibit would be taken down on Monday (April 14th) to get ready for the new exhibit, "West by Southwest," which will feature paintings from the Taos Society of Artists and historic and contemporary Santa Fe artists, April 27th through June 3rd.

Ms. Docog stated that the Southwest Museum's search for a new director is continuing.

Chair Linoff thanked Ms. Docog for the update.

10. Update Regarding Mesa Historical Museum from Tracy Wright Wagner

Ms. Wright Wagner informed Committee members about a new exhibit to be at the Mesa Historical Museum, entitled, "Hot Irons: Branding in the Old West," which opens on Saturday, April 12th, and features over 50 irons including Gov. Moeur's, Will Rogers' and Stephen Austin's brand. Ms. Wright Wagner thanked the Mesa Southwest Museum for making this exhibit possible by loaning the brands from the John Hale collection to the Mesa Historical Museum.

Ms. Wright Wagner said that the next lecture for the Agriculture in Arizona lecture series would be on sheep ranching, to be held April 17th.

11. Committee Member Comments and Questions and Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ron Peters offered to work on the Historic Preservation Awards nomination packets for next year in order to refine the content and requirements.

Mr. Peters stated that he received notification from SHPO that the Buckhorn Baths is eligible for the National Register.

12. Adjournment

7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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