



Approved Minutes
Historic Preservation Board

Date: July 7, 2015

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 Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Janice Gennevois Louise Swann Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D. Greg Marek | | John Wesley Kim Steadman Gordon Sheffield | Christine Close |

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

2. Introduction of new Board member

Newly appointed Board member Greg Marek introduced himself and reviewed his background working in historic preservation in Mesa and other communities. The other board members introduced themselves to Mr. Marek.

3. Election of Officers for 2015/2016

- a. Election of Chair

First motion made by Chair James Taylor to elect Board member Gennevois as Chair, second motion by Vice-Chair Mack-Allred.
 Motion carried 7-0

- b. Election of Vice-Chair

First motion by Board member Swann to re-elect vice-chair Mack-Allred as Vice-Chair, second by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf.
 Motion carried 7-0

4. Approval of the June 2, 2015 minutes

Chair Taylor noted he would like to make an addition to the wording in one part of the minutes. Under item 3, last sentence in the 3rd paragraph he confirmed the statement was by Councilmember Glover and asked that wording be added to the beginning of that sentence to make that clear. This sentence was amended to: "Councilmember Glover stated history should be maintained, if possible, through adaptive re-use, but should not be required."

First Motion made by Vice-chair Mack Allred to approve the minutes as amended and seconded by Board member Alvrus.

Motion carried 7-0

5. Review and discuss options for addressing the retention and maintenance of historic signs in the City's Sign ordinance with Gordon Sheffield, Zoning Administrator.

Mr. Sheffield provided the Board with background on the sign ordinance and his work to update the sign ordinance. He also discussed his understanding of the Tucson ordinance that supports preservation of historic signs.

Board members asked several questions about options and opportunities to create historic sign districts, to use the existing historic designations to protect historic signs, and the opportunities to proceed faster with adding language similar to Tucson to the Mesa sign code.

Mr. Sheffield expressed his interest in and support for the idea of protecting existing historic signs. The direction he has from management is to continue with the overall sign code to bring into conformance with recent Supreme Court decisions regarding sign ordinances and then to work on the section regarding historic signs. He agreed it would be possible to use the existing Historic District or Historic Landmark overlay zones to protect signs. The other option today is to use the Special Use Permit (SUP) process through the Board of Adjustment to create a Comprehensive Sign Plan to maintain signs that do not comply with the current code. This is what was done with the Diving Lady sign.

Board members Marek and Shaffer-Metcalf along with Chair Taylor pointed out the need to build awareness and support in the community for maintaining these signs. It was recognized that just having the ordinances in place does not necessarily protect the signs from being removed. Board member Shaffer-Metcalf stated she would start a conversation Robin Sewell of Arizona Highways as a step in building this awareness.

6. Discuss and take action on the student writing and poster contests for the coming year

The Board decided they would focus on the writing contest and not add a poster contest.

Following discussion of several options, the Board decided to focus this year's writing contest on having participants pick one of the existing historic districts or historic landmark and write a story regarding what it would have been like living in that area anytime up to 1965.

Board member Shaffer-Metcalf and Mr. Wesley will work together to update the website and application forms with the information needed for this year's contest. The goal is to get this information out for the contest to run through the fall.

7. Review updates to the Historic Property webpage

Board member Swann explained to the Board some of the ideas she has for improving this part of the webpage. Mr. Wesley demonstrated to the Board what has recently been done by the City's IT staff that should be rolling out soon. These changes were supported by the Board and were consistent with Board member Swann's ideas for basic format. Board member Swann will continue to research and provide updated photos and descriptions for each of the properties.

8. Update on 2nd Avenue and Pasadena historic survey

Vice-Chair Mack-Allred provided an update. The work is nearly complete. The consultant has presented the survey findings to city staff and to SHPO. He is now finalizing all the forms and doing the overall write up. This will be on an upcoming Board agenda for discussion on what to do next with trying to create any local or national districts.

9. Plan for September meeting with the West Side Clark Historic neighborhood

Christine Close from the West Side Clark neighborhood told the Board the 1st Lutheran Church at 1st Place and Date has agreed to allow the Board to use their building for the September meeting. The plan is for the Board to meet at 5:30 for a quick tour of the area and then meet at the Church at 6:00 for the regular meeting. A focus of the meeting will be on the value of local districts and to answer questions from the neighborhood residents.

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

There were no updates.

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

Items mentioned for possible inclusion on the August agenda included:

- Ron Peters discussing options for documenting the Buckhorn Baths
- The possibility there will be a request for consideration of an HL overlay zoning district
- Further consideration of the 2nd Ave./Pasadena area for historic designation
- Preparing for the September 2 Second Friday event downtown.

12. Adjournment

Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf and seconded by Board member Swann. Motion carried 7-0.

Supporting data is available for public review in the Planning Division,
Municipal Building, 55 N. Center St., Mesa, Arizona 85201

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