



## Historic Preservation Board

**Date:** July 5, 2016

**Time:** 6:15 p.m.

**Location:** 57 E. First Street, Lower Level Council Chambers

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Janice Gennevois, Chair Greg Marek Louise Swann Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D. Brandon Benzing	Milagros Zingoni	John Wesley	Vic Linoff Donna Benge Nancy Thompson Patricia Willis Cynthia Dunham Phil Austin

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Gennevois called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Introduction of new Board members

New Board member Brandon Benzing introduced himself to the Board. Staff member Wesley informed the Board that Milagros Zingoni had also been appointed but had a commitment out of town and could not attend this meeting, she will be present for the next meeting.

3. Election of Officers for 2016-2017

a. Chair

First Motion made by Board member Swann to elect Board member Schaffer-Metcalf as Board Chair for 2016-2017 and seconded by Board member Alvrus.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Zingoni absent)

b. Vice-Chair

First Motion made by Board member Swann to elect Board member Gennevois as Board Vice-Chair for 2016-2017 and seconded by Board member Alvrus.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Zingoni absent)

4. Approval of the June 7, 2016 regular meeting minutes

First Motion made by Board member Swann to approve the June 7 minutes as amended and seconded by Board member Marek.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Zingoni absent)

5. Miscellaneous Items from the Audience

None.

6. Hear a presentation, discuss, and take action on the proposed designation of the Washington Park Escobedo Heritage Neighborhood

Staff member Wesley provided the Board with background on the creation of the Heritage Neighborhood designation. He stated that for several years the residents of the Washington Park area have wanted to become a historic district. This has been studied several times and it has been determined they do not qualify for this designation. They are, however, an important part of this history of Mesa and there is a desire to recognize that and support their ongoing maintenance of that history and their neighborhood.

With the establishment of the Heritage Neighborhood designation they began immediately to prepare and file an application. They have worked diligently over the last year to document the history of their neighborhood. They have also worked hard to get as many neighbors involved as possible and through that, build a stronger neighborhood. Staff has worked with them on the application and we are ready to recommend approval.

Nancy Thompson, 417 N. Sirine, spoke in favor of the designation. She informed the Board of the work the neighborhood did to create their Quality of Life Plan. This plan contains some of the history of the neighborhood and includes a recommendation that a historic district be created for the area.

Patricia Willis, 541 N. Lewis, spoke in support of the designation. She commented on some of the historic figures who have lived in the neighborhood, but also commented that is the all of the people who supported each other that make the neighborhood like a big family. This is what makes it such a special place that needs to be preserved.

Phil Austin, 8648 E. Nora, spoke in favor of the designation. He grew up in this neighborhood and his father had a store on Pima. The Mitchell addition was developed for people of color and this was important to the growth of Mesa because it allowed for diversity.

Cynthia Dunham, Executive Director, West Mesa Community Development Corporation, stated this is about the people, they make it a special place and have done so for decades. They have worked hard to prepare the application and supporting materials. The designation will be nice, but the working together to understand their history is even better.

Board member Benzing stated that when he moved to Mesa as a child his family was part of the sprawl development that occurred in the 1980's. So much of Mesa is the same. It is important to do what we can to recognize these places. It is good to hear and document the stories and hopes this designation will help the neighborhood dig deeper and continue to support each other.

Board member Marek commented that he believes this would be a good thing for the neighborhood, but asked why they did not qualify for a historic district designation. Staff member Wesley explained the steps that had been taken with SHPO and with consideration of a local designation. It may be possible to designate some small pockets, but they have had difficulty getting enough support from the actual property owners. Board member Marek encouraged the neighborhood to continue looking at this option.

Board member Marek also asked why the period of significance went to 1980. Staff member Wesley explained that through the work done on the Quality of Life Plan the Salvation Army facility became an important part of the neighborhood. This was not built until the late '70's. The neighborhood felt that the boundaries proposed were what they see as their neighborhood.

First Motion made by Board member Marek to recommend approval of the Heritage Neighborhood designation for the Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood and seconded by Board member Swann.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Zingoni absent)

7. Review, discuss and provide comments on the draft Historic Landmark Sign Ordinance

Board member Marek stated the working group has taken the comments from the previous meeting and made some modifications. We are now in need of legal review. The goal is still to try and have this ready for the September Planning and Zoning Board meeting

Chair Gennevois stated the goal is to maintain the historic neon signs and that the goal is to have this to the current council before changes take place in January.

Board member Marek mentioned an alternative. In Flagstaff they regulate these signs through the historic preservation chapter of their code rather than the sign code; this is an alternative that could be considered.

MaryGrace McNear, Deputy City Attorney, addressed the Board. Ms. McNear reviewed with the Board the challenges in drafting this section of the sign code given the Supreme Court ruling in Reed v Town of Gilbert. All cities in Arizona are needing to update their codes to be consistent with this ruling. The Attorney's office will work with staff and the Board to help complete this section, but it may take longer than desired by the Board because of the need to complete the re-writing of the existing portion prior to spending too much time on a new section. In response to the question from Board member Marek about trying to treat the signs more like other historic buildings, Ms. McNear stated she did not think it would make much difference. The trick is going to be finding ways to take all of the references to content out of the code and keep it focused on materials, age, shape, etc.

Board members expressed their support for the new ordinance and desire to move this project forward as quickly as possible. Board member Marek stated he would supply a copy of the Flagstaff ordinance.

8. Review and provide comments on the responses from potential contractors for historic preservation services

Staff member Wesley stated he had received the five responses for interest in this contract. The responses include two multi-person firms and three individuals. It would appear any of them could do the work.

Board members discussed the options of having a firm versus an individual. The firms provide a variety of services, but may be distracted with other projects and have a higher overhead. The Board felt it was important that we put a face on the program and this would be easier with an individual. Board members expressed a preference for Lauren Allsop as an individual and Don Ryden as a firm.

9. Discuss upcoming student writing contest to include possible topics and timeline

Board member Schaffer-Metcalf reviewed the time line that was used last year and suggested the same one be used for this year's contest. The Board agreed with that time line. The Board agreed to consider topics for the next contest and provide their suggestions to Mr. Wesley. These will be discussed at the August meeting and a decision made at that time.

10. Updates on ongoing items:

a. Downtown façade improvement, colonnade removal, and historic designation

Vic Linhof addressed the Board and stated that Ron Peters had identified a contractor willing to remove a portion of the colonnade for free. They have now found a property owner willing to have their section removed.

b. Westside Clark local historic district designation progress

No update

c. Southwest corner of Mesa Drive and University (Site 17)

No update

d. Certificates of Appropriateness cases

No update

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

Board member Marek stated he has not heard back from the Realtor on the Buckhorn Baths.

Vic Linoff addressed the Board and mentioned the owner of Bill Johnsons has agreed to donate the sign. He also stated that the owner of the Sun Land Motel is considering donating their sign.

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

13. Adjournment

Chair Gennevois adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Marek and seconded by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf.  
Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Zingoni absent)

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

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