



Historic Preservation Board

Date: March 1, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Janice Gennevois, Chair Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair Jim Taylor Greg Marek Louise Swann Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D.	Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D.	John Wesley Wahid Alam Rebecca Gorton	Vic Linoff Donna Bengé Alyssa Gerszewski, SHPO Marilyn Lambert Linda Matthews

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Gennevois called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Vic Linoff introduced Alyssa Gerszewski from the SHPO who was visiting the meeting.

2. Approval of the February 2, 2015 minutes

First motion made by Board member Marek to approve the minutes and seconded by Chair Gennevois.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Metcalfe absent)

3. Plan for Board Retreat scheduled for April 16

Boardmember Swann suggested The Serrine House as one of the locations to visit. Vice Chair Mack-Allred recommended viewing some of the post war neighborhoods and Boardmember Marek stated it would be beneficial to scout out some post war neighborhoods similar to the one on Stapley. Boardmember Marek suggested a look at identifying at risk homes from the post war era.

It was decided that the retreat begin at Jerrod's Coffee House at 154 West Main Street. Then progress to the Serrine House and on to the Park of the Canals on Horne Street for lunch.

4. Consider historic designation options for 160 S. Serrine

Board member Marek expressed his desire to see information on nominations prior to a meeting. Vice chair Mack-Allred explained this was put on the agenda as an opportunity to get some input and feedback as they start the process, no decisions are being made.

Linda Matthews is assisting Marilyn Lambert, the property owner, and Vice chair Mack-Allred in the process of preparing a nomination for the National Register. Information that has been gathered was passed around for the Board members to review.

Discussion ensued regarding the basis of a nomination – based on a historic figure who built the home and resided there vs. architecture. Vice chair Mack-Allred explained the challenges they had from SHPO with the architecture has led them to focus on the individual, who was prominent in early Mesa history.

Alyssa Gerszewski, SHPO, explained it was possible to set up an informal meeting with SHPO staff to get feedback on potential historic properties and determine the best way to proceed.

It was determined that such a meeting with SHPO would be the best move and then once we knew what SHPO would support could move forward with both national and local designations.

5. Updates on ongoing items:

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

Chair Gennevois reported on the meeting Jeff McVay had with property owners on February 17 and his presentation to Council on February 25 regarding the façade improvement program. The presentations were well done and well received. There was some concern from a couple of Councilmembers regarding the program, but the Council agreed to make discussion of funding such a program part of the annual budget discussions which are getting started.

Board member Marek said he has a concern that the Council may view it as a choice between this program and funding a historic preservation office; we need to encourage funding for both. Discussion ensued on how to approach the Council for funding for both. Chair Gennevois is going to work with Vic Linoff of the Mesa Historic Preservation Foundation to prepare talking points on both issues and then the Board members can contact Councilmembers to discuss both items with them.

b. Historic sign ordinance

Board member Marek stated he has started putting a draft together in the format of the Mesa code. When he has that done he will share it with staff. He hopes to have something for the Board to look at for the April or May meeting.

c. Historic Preservation Staff

No update

d. Westside Clark local historic district designation process

John Wesley reported that he had received an update from Sandra Sutton. The group is done with signing parties in that they feel they have gotten all the signature they can from that approach. They are now going to start filling in the gaps by visiting directly with individual property owners. Chair Gennevois and Vice chair Mack-Allred expressed their willingness to help.

e. Southwest corner of Mesa Drive and University

Chair Gennevois stated that Jeff McVay had made a presentation to Council regarding options for a RFP for development of this property. The presentation included three possible scenarios for development to demonstrate a range of what could happen. She particularly liked the first one, but all were sensitive to the existing Wilbur neighborhood.

She stated the Council seemed to get it and the need to be compatible to the historic neighborhood. Councilmember Glover expressed his desire to see something like the

Gaslight District in San Diego. The Council asked staff to work with the neighborhood in developing the RFP

Board member Marek asked if this would be a place for the new ASU campus. John Wesley stated, no, they are wanting to keep that closer to the light rail. Board member Marek expressed his thoughts that this should be developed with a mix of uses and densities and that architecture and landscape were important.

f. Student writing contest

John Wesley reminded the Board that the awards would be given at the City Council meeting on April 4. Board members are encouraged to attend.

g. Historic Preservation Awards

John Wesley reminded the Board that now is the time to submit nominations. Three have been received. The Board will be reviewing the nominations and deciding on awards at their April meeting. The awards will probably be distributed at a Council meeting in June.

h. Possible purchase of 151 N. Wilbur

Chair Gennevois reminded the Board that at the last meeting she had reported she had gotten a call from a City of Mesa staff member, Ray Thimesch, inquiring about who owned the property and that the City might want to purchase it and build a house on it. There was concern that building on this property might not be consistent with the historic designation.

Board member Marek asked Mr. Wesley what the process would be. Mr. Wesley explained that they would have to come through the HPO for a Certificate of Appropriateness before getting a building permit. While it would be new construction and would not look like a historic home, we would still require the site, bulk, setting, and basic form to be in harmony with the district.

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

None

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

Board member Marek referred to the discussion from last month regarding putting items on the agenda when someone is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness. He acknowledged that the timeline required by the ordinance is very short, so maybe staff could have them come to a meeting as soon as they approach staff prior to making an application.

Board member Marek also pointed out there is not an item on the agenda for Miscellaneous Comments from the Audience and suggested that be on all future agendas.

Board member Swann stated she would like an update on the Pioneer Park Train.

8. Adjournment

Chair Gennevois adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm.

First Motion made by Vice chair Mack-Allred and seconded by Board member Marek. Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Metcalfe, 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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