

CITY OF MESA
MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: February 13, 2003 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Victor Linoff
David Dean
Vince Anderson
Pat Mendivil
Ron Peters
Tracy Wright Wagner

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Marek
Tony Felice
Kathy Guthmiller
Sandra Apsey
Jerry Howard

OTHERS PRESENT

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lori Osiecki

1. Call to Order

The February 13, 2003 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Consider Minutes of January 9, 2003 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Vince Anderson, seconded by David Dean, to RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF the January 9, 2003 Minutes, as amended.

**Vote: 6 in favor
 0 opposed**

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

No items from citizens present.

4. **Discuss and Consider a Local Historic Landmark Overlay, Case No. HL03-001TC, for the Federal Building located at 26 N. Macdonald Street (Request to continue this item to the March/April HPC Meeting)**

Mr. Marek noted that the application wasn't complete due to continuing research; information regarding the Federal Building's addition is still being investigated. Mr. Marek stated that the application should be complete by the March or April Historic Preservation Committee meeting, and that Katrina Bradshaw is the staff member working on this project.

Ms. Pat Mendivil said that she believed Grant Macdonald was the Postmaster around the time of the addition and suggested the possibility of contacting his daughter to see if she remembers when the addition was built.

Committee members briefly discussed how the Federal Building was being utilized and some possible future uses, which include potential uses for the Southwest Museum and the City Library.

Mr. Marek explained that the City of Mesa owns the building (it was a surplus property), and since it is eligible for listing on the National Register, the General Services Administration put a deed restriction on the building so any alterations to the building would have to be approved by the City's Historic Preservation Office as well as by the State Historic Preservation Office.

It was moved by David Dean, seconded by Vince Anderson, to continue the Local Historic Landmark Overlay Case No. HL03-001TC (for the Federal Building located at 26 N. Macdonald Street) to the next Historic Preservation Committee regular meeting.

**Vote: 6 in favor
0 opposed**

5. **Discuss and Consider the National Register Nominations for the Arizona Temple, Robson Historic District, and West Second Street Historic District Amendment and Boundary Revision**

Mr. Marek clarified that the cover letter sent by the State Historic Preservation Office was inaccurate; the "amendment and boundary revision" notation applied to the West Second Street Historic District (not to the Robson Historic District).

Mr. Ron Peters asked if staff felt the nomination form for the Arizona Temple was sufficient for National Register nomination.

Mr. Tony Felice responded that the nomination form had been through two sets of revisions between the State Historic Preservation Office and the applicant, in addition to the City's Historic Preservation Office.

Chair Linoff asked who completed the form.

Mr. Felice answered that Walt and Elaine McIver had completed the form for the Temple nomination.

Mr. Marek stated that staff's recommendation is that the Historic Preservation Committee approve these three applications for listing on the National Register.

Mr. Marek noted that the Historic Sites Review Committee will be meeting in Mesa on February 21st at the Irving School, and will be taking a tour of historic districts and Mitten and Pomeroy houses.

It was moved by David Dean, seconded by Pat Mendivil, to approve all three applications (for the Arizona Temple, Robson Historic District and West Second Street Historic District Amendment) for listing on the National Register.

**Vote: 6 in favor
0 opposed**

6. Discuss 2003 Annual Historic Preservation Awards Program

Mr. Marek noted that the Historic Preservation Awards Program was advertised on a Wednesday in both the *Arizona Republic* and the *Tribune*.

Chair Linoff said he had a difficult time finding the advertisements, and suggested that for next year, the background could be omitted to help the ads stand out more.

Chair Linoff acknowledged that the format and wording of the Historic Preservation Awards nomination packet was improved and easier to understand.

Chair Linoff encouraged HPC members to help publicize the Historic Preservation Awards program.

Ms. Tracy Wright Wagner stated that an announcement was placed in the Mesa Historical Society's newsletter.

Staff added that nomination forms would be available at the Mesa Southwest Museum, the Library (in addition to the Mesa Room), Mesa Historical Museum, Mesa Town Center, the Historic Preservation Office, and also from the City of Mesa web site.

Chair Linoff clarified that just because the Committee decided (at the January regular meeting) to limit the number of Historic Preservation Awards to five (5), it didn't mean that a total of five awards had to be given out; it was just a maximum number, and maybe some years only one or two awards would be given.

Mr. Marek noted that with the budget problems, funding for awards would be limited.

Chair Linoff asked Mr. Felice if he could research the exact amount of the awards and present the information at the next regular HPC meeting.

7. Director's Report

Mr. Marek informed Committee members that he would be giving a presentation to City Council regarding the process of designating Local Historic Districts and Local Historic Landmarks.

Mr. Marek noted that this ties in with the grant awarded for the post World War II study; the Historic Preservation Office will try to get an extension of the deadline to sign it in order to give the City Council presentation beforehand.

Mr. Peters asked if it was a matching grant.

Mr. Marek clarified that it was a 60/40; so for the \$25,000 study, a total of \$15,000 (\$8,000 this fiscal year, \$7,000 next fiscal year) would be paid from the Historic Preservation Office budget. Mr. Marek added that accepting the grant didn't mean it had to be used; it could be turned back if it were determined that funds weren't available.

Mr. Marek stated that the current Reconnaissance Survey goes up to 1955, so the new study would go from 1955 to 1975. Mr. Marek noted that when a neighborhood wishes to be designated as historic, the first thing staff looks at is the Reconnaissance Survey to determine if it is an "A" or "B" priority. Mr. Marek said that currently, staff is working with the Clark Street/West Side Addition, which is an "A" priority.

Mr. Felice updated Committee members on the Clark Street/West Side Addition neighborhood meeting. Mr. Felice stated that NEDCO and Mesa CAN have agreed to assist in the legwork to help the neighborhood, and each resident will fill out an inventory form and attach a photograph of the property.

Mr. Felice added that Don Ryden had already been hired to establish the boundaries and identify the contributors and non-contributors. The next step will be to acquire the petitions, then hire a historian to develop a National Register quality context statement to be used for the local and national designations. Both NEDCO and Mesa CAN have said that they may be able to provide some grant funding to the neighborhood to accomplish this.

Mr. Marek noted that the applicants are reviewing the Redevelopment Agreements for the Mitten and Pomeroy Houses. Mr. Marek said that this may come back to the Historic Preservation Committee possibly by their March meeting. Mr. Marek added that conservation easements are being integrated as part of the agreements.

Mr. Marek informed Committee members that the Mitten house is back on the National Register.

Mr. Marek told the HPC that Channel 5 was recently out to film a segment on the Mesa Grande site.

Chair Linoff requested that staff try to obtain a copy of the video.

Mr. David Dean suggested that the segment could play on Channel 11.

Mr. Marek reminded Committee members about the upcoming HPC retreat on Saturday, February 22nd to be held at the EVIT barn.

Mr. Marek asked HPC members what items they wished to discuss at the retreat.

Mr. Peters said he would like to discuss the Escobedo apartments that are scheduled for demolition, and being proactive as a Committee in regards to this and other significant properties.

Chair Linoff recommended that survey sheets or other information about the Escobedo units be available at the retreat.

Referring to the HPC retreat, Chair Linoff added that he would like to discuss strategies for continuing the Historic Preservation program given the budget constraints.

Mr. Dean stated he felt they should discuss Historic Preservation Week and what Committee members could do (such as writing special columns for the newspaper) in order to provide better publicity.

Mr. Peters suggested the possibilities of utilizing a portion of the revenue from the City's recycling program, and adding to the garbage/refuse fee for help with funding the Historic Preservation program.

Ms. Sandra Apsey of the Mesa Room informed Committee members that the Library would be hosting a "Long-Time Residents Reception" on February 16th, targeting residents of the Washington Park/Escobedo Neighborhood to obtain more history of that neighborhood.

Ms. Apsey told Committee members that Ms. Anna Uremovich of the Mesa Room will be holding preservation workshops regarding photographs and printed materials throughout the year.

Ms. Apsey noted that over 170 people have come in to visit the quilt display in the past six weeks.

In conjunction with Historic Preservation Week, Ms. Apsey said she would like to put on a program at the Library related to Historic Preservation. Ms. Apsey also noted that a poster or related information could be placed in the Mesa Room's display case.

Mr. Jerry Howard stated that March is Arizona Archeology Awareness Month, and on March 8th there will be an open house at Mesa Grande.

Mr. Peters offered the idea of having a Historic Preservation Speakers Forum, sponsored by the Historic Preservation Committee. Mr. Peters noted that funding is available for obtaining speakers.

Mr. Peters also mentioned he would like to discuss the status of the Irving School at the HPC Retreat.

Mr. Dean stated that the Committee should discuss an endangered properties list at the Retreat.

8. Update Regarding Mesa Historical Museum from Tracy Wright Wagner

Ms. Tracy Wright Wagner briefed the Committee on the success of the Historic Homes Tour, thanking the Historic Preservation Office for its support, and noted that the Evergreen Historic District is interested in participating again next year.

Regarding the Historic Homes Tour, Chair Linoff suggested having information available about historic districts, and having some type of form available for people on the tour who may be able to add to the history and background.

Ms. Mendivil noted the Serrine House would be a good place to have such information available.

Mr. Felice stated that there has been information on hand about the Historic Preservation program at the Antique Wedding House.

HPC members congratulated Ms. Wright Wagner on the success of the Historic Homes Tour.

Ms. Wright Wagner informed the HPC of a fundraising barbecue for the Mesa Historical Museum. She also stated that the museum partnered with the Serrine House for the Territorial Days event, and told Committee members about the next agricultural lecture about the citrus industry in the Valley.

8. Committee Member Comments and Questions and Future Agenda Items

Chair Linoff stated that he would be attending a meeting to discuss the Rehabilitation Code and how it is moving forward.

Chair Linoff informed the HPC members that he would be attending a reception for Chairs of Boards and Committees on April 3rd and giving a presentation.

Chair Linoff suggested the possibility of holding a joint meeting with Historic Preservation commissions of various East Valley Cities, such as Mesa, Tempe and Scottsdale.

Mr. Dean said that the State Archives promotes Historic Preservation Week, which involves a day-long history presentation/fair, where a booth could be obtained for about \$50 to promote Mesa's Historic Preservation.

Mr. Dean asked when the SHPO/CLG Conference would be held. Chair Linoff said that his understanding was that there would not be a CLG Conference; the Arizona Preservation Foundation is working with SHPO to do something different, possibly scheduled for June.

Mr. Dean noted that there should be a more formalized connection with the Arizona Preservation Foundation (APF) because they could be an agent for the Historic Preservation Office in obtaining Federal funding.

Chair Linoff talked about the APF awards, and that the Pomeroy and Mitten houses could be candidates for these awards.

Committee members agreed that the Mitten house is an excellent candidate, but it would be more appropriate to nominate it next year, after it has been restored.

Committee members also discussed submitting properties for the endangered properties list; suggestions included the Escobedo neighborhood and Buckhorn Baths.

Mr. Peters offered to research submitting the Buckhorn Baths to be placed on the endangered properties list.

Ms. Wright Wagner asked if the Heritage Funds were in danger of being cut.

Chair Linoff noted that the Heritage Foundation would be holding a hearing on February 14th, where discussion related to that subject would take place.

9. **Adjournment**

7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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