

Historic Preservation Board



Minutes

Location: Lower Level Council Chambers – 57 E First Street

Date: February 04, 2020 Time: 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Marek, Chair
Brandon Benzing, Vice-Chair
Laura Schaffer-Metcalf Ed.D.
Benjamin Ayers
Barbara Bingham
Milagros Zingoni
James Babos

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Nana Appiah
Arianna Urban
Charlotte McDermott
Dawn Dallman
Rebecca Gorton

GUESTS:

Vic Linoff

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

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

2. **Welcome new Historic Preservation Board member James Babos.**

Jim Babos earned a Master of Architecture at Arizona State University and has since been a licensed practicing architect in the Valley. He largely works on residential and small commercial projects. He has been involved with several historic preservation projects as an architect and is happy to be able to serve on the Mesa Historic Preservation Board.

Chair Marek and all Board Members conducted introductions.

3. **Approval of the minutes from the January 07, 2020 Historic Preservation Board meeting.**

Chair Marek asked for discussion on the minutes or a motion to approve.

It was noted that the name of Guest Vic Linoff was spelled incorrectly in the January minutes.

As no Members of the Board raised any comments, Board Member Zingoni moved to approve the minutes with such changes and Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0

Ayes: Greg Marek, Brandon Benzing, Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Barbara Bingham, Milagros Zingoni, James Babos (Board Member Ayers arrived after the vote)

Nays: None

4. Items from citizens present*

None.

5. Discuss and take action on a letter to the U.S Treasury Secretary regarding supporting historic preservation easements.

Chair Marek clarified if his signature should be the only one on the letter, and Board Members Schaffer-Metcalf and Benzing agreed that it would be appropriate for Chair Marek to sign the letter on behalf of the Board Members. Board Member Zingoni offered that the names of the Board Members should all be listed, but the only signature on the letter should be that of Chair Marek.

Board Member Zingoni made a motion for Chair Marek to sign the letter of support on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Board Member Bingham.

Vote: 6-0

Ayes: Greg Marek, Brandon Benzing, Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Barbara Bingham, Milagros Zingoni, James Babos (Board Member Ayers arrived after the vote)

Nays: None

6. Discuss the annual Historic Preservation Awards.

Board Member Zingoni wished to clarify the clause in the nomination information that addressed the nominees as property owners of the project. In some cases, the principal parties who carried out the project are not necessarily the property owners themselves, especially in the cases of interior improvements, and it would be beneficial to expand that information to include parties like the architect, contractor, business owner, or others involved. Chair Marek and Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf agreed with this discrepancy and suggested to expand the clause to "nominee or property owner." Ms. Arianna Urban, Historic Preservation Coordinator, agreed to make the change in the document.

Ms. Urban mentioned that the City of Mesa Public Information Officer is planning to do some media outreach to publicize the award nominations, and that the information has gone live on the website.

7. Discuss the upcoming Historic Preservation Board Retreat including potential agenda topics.

Ms. Urban and Planning Director Dr. Nana Appiah conveyed to the Board that the Board retreat will be held on Saturday February 15, 2020, at the Benedictine University community room beginning at 9am. A tentative tour has also been scheduled at the Lehi School/Mesa Historical Museum. Discussion is planned for 9am to 12:30am, followed by lunch, and the museum tour.

Dr. Appiah outlined the structure of the retreat, beginning with Board duties and functions, and will continue with past historic preservation plans, and conclude with brainstorming the future of the historic preservation program in Mesa. The retreat should bring clarity to Board Members and City staff, and a list of priorities that the preservation program should pursue. Chair Marek hopes to maximize the amount of time given to group discussion during the retreat, given the rarity of the opportunity to do so. He also posited to the Board

their inclinations to have the public participate in the retreat, or if they should instead be considered spectators. Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf and Vice-Chair Benzing both offered that public participation would be beneficial. Board Member Zingoni asked if it would be possible for members of the public to email City staff with their questions prior to the retreat date. Vice-Chair Benzing offered that the public may attend the Retreat as spectators but that they bring their comments to the following Board meeting, to which Dr. Appiah agreed.

Ms. Urban then solicited from the Board Members ideas for retreat agenda items. Chair Marek offered: a short orientation, Board responsibilities based on the Mesa Zoning Ordinance, a staff presentation on preservation project priorities, discussion of projects that are currently in progress, and input and discussion from the Board Members. Board Member Zingoni proposed an update on the status of historic district efforts that are still in progress. Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf would like to see a list of projects that are in progress and a breakdown of things that still need to be done, as had been compiled in the past. Vice-Chair Benzing proposed that he would like to discuss the community outreach aspect, and how it is crucial to educate the public. Chair Marek would like to use the retreat to be proactive and justify the continuance of the City of Mesa's historic preservation funding, in order to successfully execute important preservation projects, to which Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf agreed. Dr. Appiah communicated to the board that the City staff plan to utilize the entirety of the historic preservation budget, and plan to ask for the same amount for next year.

Ms. Urban plans to assemble a draft agenda and distribute it to the Board prior to the retreat.

Board Member Babos asked to clarify the purpose of the retreat, to which Chair Marek explained that it is an educational opportunity for Board Members and City staff, and a chance for all to propose priorities and projects for the future of the preservation program. Board Member Babos regretfully will not be able to attend the retreat, but suggested contacting historic preservation Boards and staff members in other Valley cities to understand their programs and methods. Ms. Urban concurred that this has been a priority of the Mesa program and is planned for the near future.

8. Discuss the State Historic Preservation Conference including Board Member attendance.

Ms. Urban stated that the City plans on being able to send any Board Member who wishes to attend to the State Historic Preservation Conference in Tempe in June 16-18. Chair Marek encouraged attendance; that the conference is a good opportunity to meet with others in the Arizona preservation community and exchange ideas.

9. Discuss the Certified Local Government grant from the State Historic Preservation Office and status for where the City is in the process of drafting the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Mesa Historic Design Guidelines update.

Ms. Urban stated that City staff is in the process of composing the RFP and have decided to combine the Historic Preservation Ordinance update project with the Historic Design Guidelines update project. The scope is currently in progress and the City anticipates the RFP will be circulated by the end of February.

10. Discuss and hear updates regarding the re-use of the City's former Information Technology/Mesa City Library building.

Chair Marek voiced his interest in the "wavy" canopies as a part of the Arizona State University rehabilitation project happening at the former IT building, as it is designated a local city landmark. Ms. Urban stated that the design team for the project has included her in their planning meetings, and that the architects are *conscientious* of the historic nature of the building and has taken the canopies into serious consideration. Board Member Ayers, a member of said design team, offered that a presentation will be given to the Board at the March meeting regarding this project, which will include options for the canopies.

Dr. Appiah added that the Landmark Designation for the IT Building included a stipulation that the Mesa Historic Preservation Officer must approve future alterations to the building, including changes to the canopies.

11. Historic Preservation Officer's Updates:

a. Update on the historic home tour including participation.

- Ms. Urban summarized that the City staff were able to establish a small booth at the Sirrine House location on the day of the Mesa historic home tour to answer tourgoer questions and sell Mesa historic preservation t shirts. Chair Marek expressed his gratitude for staff participation.
- Dr. Appiah added that the nature of the questions and comments from tour participants signals to staff that community outreach and education is even more crucial.

12. Hear reports form Board Members on museum, exhibits, committees, and/or events related to historic preservation.

Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf offered an update on the historical writing and video contest and the lack of entries, despite an effort to distribute application materials. She continued that Mesa's Public Information Officer will renew his efforts to help attract attention to the contest, along with her continuance to reach out to Mesa Public Schools.

13. Future agenda items.

IT Building presentation
Retreat follow-up
Historic preservation awards update
Update on issuance of RFP

14. **Adjournment.**

Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. and was seconded by Board Member Zingoni.

Vote: 7-0

Ayes: Greg Marek, Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Brandon Benzing, Benjamin Ayers, Barbara Bingham, James Babos, Milagros Zingoni

Nays: None

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