

Historic Preservation Board



Minutes

Location: Lower Level Council Chambers – 57 E First Street

Date: August 6, 2019 Time: 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Nana Appiah
Charlotte McDermott
Christine Zielonka
Deyannie Gilmore

GUESTS:

Vic Linoff
Chris Cody
Eric Vondy
Other citizen who did not sign in

1. Call Meeting to Order.
Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM
2. Approval of the minutes from the June 4, 2019 board meeting. No meeting was held in July.

Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf moved to approve the minutes and Board Member Ayers made the second.

Vote: 7-0
Ayes: Greg Marek, Brandon Benzing, Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Milagros Zingoni, Jeri Meeks, Benjamin Ayers, Barbara Bingham
Nays: None
3. Items from citizens present*
None
4. Election of Historic Preservation Board Officers
Board Member Zingoni made a motion to nominate Chair Marek to be reappointed as the Chair of the Historic Preservation Board and Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf made the second.

Vote: Unanimous

Ayes: Greg Marek, Brandon Benzing, Laura Schaffer-Metcalfe, Milagros Zingoni, Jeri Meeks, Benjamin Ayers, Barbara Bingham

Nays: None

Board Member Meeks made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Brandon Benzing to be reappointed as Vice Chair of the Historic Preservation Board and Board Member Zingoni made a second.

Vote: Unanimous

Ayes: Greg Marek, Brandon Benzing, Laura Schaffer-Metcalfe, Milagros Zingoni, Jeri Meeks, Benjamin Ayers, Barbara Bingham

Nays: None

5. Introduction of new Historic Preservation Board member Barbara Bingham.

Chair Marek introduced the new Historic Preservation Board Member, Barbara Bingham. Ms. Bingham stated she was born and raised in Ohio but has lived in the Mesa Historic District for the past 40 years. She stated she worked for the City of Mesa for 25 years before retiring from the Library. She was also a volunteer on the Neon Sign Project. The Chair asked the members of the Board to introduce themselves and each member of the Board gave their name and professional background.

6. Historic Preservation Officer's Updates.

(The items in the HPO's Updates are not for Board discussion and no Board action will be taken on the updated items.)

Planning Director Nana Appiah informed the Board about the resignation of the Historic Preservation Officer, Kate Singleton. He also informed the Board that since Kate's resignation he has spoken with the Chair and some of the members and can assured the Board that the Historic Preservation Program is very critical to the City's Planning function and has support from the City Council and Administration. He stated since he has been with the City, he has spoken with council members and administrators about the Historic Preservation program and has received great support from both the City Council and management. Dr. Appiah also stated he has given presentations about the goals and visions of the City's planning function, which has always included the Historic Preservation program, to various community stakeholders. He stated the absence of a Historic Preservation Officer is a set-back. However, the City has reached out to various organizations and individuals as well as a national search to replace Ms. Singleton with someone with an in-depth experience and expertise. He asked that the board recognizes what has occurred in the past remains in the past and look forward to working with him to strengthen the program and path forward. Dr. Appiah stated he would be more than happy to meet with any of the members on the board to discuss further the visions and goals staff has for the Historic Preservation program.

Chair Marek requested an update on the CLG (Certified Local Government) grants that are in process. Dr. Appiah stated we have a staff member that is working on the grants and the State Historic Preservation Office staff, Eric Vondy, has gladly volunteered to help to answer any questions relating to the application process and submittal. The deadline to submit the application is August 16.

Chair Marek requested Dr. Appiah discuss what the grants are for. There are two grant applications; one is a *matching* grant and the other is to re-write our Ordinance. He will be reviewing the grant and this item will be on a future agenda to discuss.

7. Hear a presentation by the State Historic Preservation Office and discuss the State's processes Section 106 reviews as required by the National Historic Preservation Act.

Chair Marek stated he would like to combine agenda item 7 and 9 since they are related. Chris Cody, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, spoke to the Board and provided resources and answers on the state requirements for review of projects that requires Section 106 reviews. Planning Director, Dr. Appiah, presented the City's review process for Section 106 reviews. Dr. Appiah informed the Board that former Historic Preservation Officer, Kate Singleton, worked with staff from the City's Community Development office to create the workflow chart. Chair Marek informed the Board that the presentation falls short of the information he had requested and that it only captures a small part of the Federal requirements for reviewing historical and archeological resources. Chair Marek asked the State Historic Preservation Office if the staff presentation adequately addresses the Section 106 reviews. Mr. Cody informed the Board that the presentation captures the major bones of the process. Dr. Appiah, informed the Board the presentation is supposed to be in two parts, one is for the section 106 review pertaining to the City's Community Development projects, which is more for residential renovations, and will be inviting other City Departments to the next meeting to present the second part of the review and process.

8. Hear a presentation by State Historic Preservation Office and discuss the City's Certified Local Government status and responsibilities.

Chris Cody, State Historic Preservation Offices, stated after meeting with Dr. Appiah and Christine Zielonka, Director of Development Services, he felt very confident that the City of Mesa was in a fortunate position. As the State Administrator, he's excited to help with Mesa CLG (Certified Local Government) projects to enhance growth, evolve and improve. He also gave a brief history and overview of CLG's. Mr. Cody explained Local, State, and Federal governments work together in the Federal Preservation Program to help communities save the irreplaceable historic character of places. Through the certification process, communities make a local commitment to historic preservation. This commitment is key to America's ability to preserve, protect, and increase awareness of our unique cultural heritage found in the built environment across the country. State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), each local community works through a certification process to become recognized as a Certified Local Government (CLG). Once certified CLG's become an active partner in the Federal Historic

Preservation Program. Each community gains access to benefits of the program and agrees to follow required Federal and State requirements. *Mr. Cody stated the City of Mesa By-Laws are out of date and need to be revised.*

9. Hear and discuss report by the City's Planning Director regarding City's administrative processes for Section 106 reviews as required by National Preservation Act.

Agenda item 9 was discussed with item 7.

10. Hear an update and discuss the Historic Preservation Board's future retreat to discuss goals of the Board.

Chair Marek and the entire board agreed to cancel the September 14th Historic Preservation Retreat until after a new Historic Preservation Officer has been hired, which will likely be within the next 3 to 4 months.

11. Hear an update and discuss Historic Preservation Awards for 2019.

Dr. Appiah stated he will look in to all the nominations submitted and present them to the Board for the upcoming Historic Preservation Board meeting in September. Also, he informed the Board that there had been a discussion to hold the nominations next May to correspond with the National Preservation Month. Chair Marek objected and said the Board will still move forward with the nominations for this year and decide the plan for next year.

12. Hear reports from Board Members and staff on museums, exhibits, committees and/or events related to historic preservation.

Board Member Meeks attended the committee meeting regarding the By-Laws, which was an active discussion. Everyone brought different resources, updated ordinance and looks forward to more meetings to see the accomplishment thus far.

13. Future agenda items.

- City goals for the Historic Preservation Board
- Concerns about the future of the Board
- Writing & Video Contest Information
- Monthly progress on recruitment for the Historic Preservation Officer
- CLG Grant Update
- Continuous discussion on the process of Section 106
- Reviews for Non-Federal Projects
- Ordinance to Preservation districts to protect Archaeology site or sensitive areas in the City
- Board expectations and action plan

14. Adjournment.

Board member Meeks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 pm and was seconded by Board member Zingoni.

Vote: 7-0

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

Nays: None