



Historic Preservation Board

Retreat

Date: April 16, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. for tour
1:30 p.m. for meeting

Location: 154 W. Main to start tour
57 E. First Street, Lower Level Council Chambers for meeting

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Janice Gennevois, Chair Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair Greg Marek Louise Swann Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D.	Jim Taylor	John Wesley Kim Steadman	Dr. Jerry Howard Vic Linhoff (at meeting)

Prior to the formal meeting, the Board toured the Sirrine House and the Park of the Canals. Dr. Jerry Howard conducted the tours and provided information to the Board members regarding the historic and archeological background on each place. The Board also drove through several Post WWII neighborhood on their way back to the City Council Chambers for their formal meeting. No action was taken during the tour.

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Gennevois called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. Discuss budget for Historic Preservation Officer being cut from \$50,000 to \$15,000 and how the position could be used

Board member Shaffer-Metcalf began the discussion by asking if it would be helpful to use the money to hire a graduate student to get quality work at a lower rate.

Vice-chair Mack-Allred asked how the Board request for \$50,000 got reduced to \$15,000. Staff member John Wesley explained that the City Manager takes in all requests and based on the overall budget makes recommendations to the Council. The Council reviews this proposal, makes adjustments as they see fit, then approves the budget. This is the funding level the City Manager felt was appropriate given all the budget needs.

Board member Marek stated he had discussions with the Mayor and Vice-mayor and he thinks we might get the amount doubled, but it was important that the Board members lobby for the funding. He also stated that it might be possible to receive additional funding if the amount budgeted gets used and there is a need for more.

Discuss ensued regarding the best way to use the position at the lower level. Board member Marek suggested having a historic preservation architect on retainer to assist with more difficult Certificate of Appropriateness cases. Staff member Steadman provided an example of the need to have someone who is helping to inform and educate residents in the established historic districts. Staff member Wesley expressed his desire to have someone who can do things

existing staff cannot do such as public outreach and helping to establish new districts. The Board will continue this discussion at their next regular meeting.

In the meantime they agreed to contact their Councilmembers to encourage support.

3. Discuss monthly updates on certificates of appropriateness

Chair Gennevois stated she was simply asking for a regular agenda item on the regular meeting agendas for staff to inform the Board of any Certificates of Appropriateness that were being considered. There was no further discussion.

4. Discuss Downtown façade improvement outcome and progress

The Board discussed the current budget status of the proposed downtown façade improvement program. It was confirmed that the draft proposed budget does not include any funding for this program. Board member Marek stated the Mayor continues to voice his support for the program and that Downtown Mesa Association has committed \$15,000 for the program.

The Board discussed ways they could work with the Council to help point out the importance of this and other historic preservation programs. It was pointed out that the Council has four strategic initiatives they are focused on for this budget. One of those is transforming neighborhoods. The Board members could work with the Council members to show how historic preservation is a key part of preserving and maintaining neighborhoods.

Vic Linoff described some efforts the Board had used in the past to lobby Council members. He pointed out that it is important to keep educating the Council, that historic preservation is an investment in the future that may cost money today but will reduce costs in the long run. He suggested Board members meet with Councilmembers to explain the benefits.

Board member Marek reminded the Board members that they had previously prepared talking points to use with the Councilmembers.

It was agreed that staff member John Wesley would contact the Council assistants to try and set up meetings with Councilmembers.

5. Discuss having Board minutes, agendas, and other public records available on line

Chair Gennevois pointed out that other Historic Preservation Boards have their agendas with all the packet material available on line and asked if we could do the same in Mesa. Staff member Wesley stated he would follow up to see if it were possible to do the attachments.

6. Review and decide on Historic Preservation Award Nominations.

Vice-chair Mack-Allred reminded the Board that they had delayed action on this because there was some confusing information in the nomination. She has done some research to correct the information and provided that to the Board members. Staff member Wesley also stated he had some e-mail exchanges with the people who made the nomination and determined that Mr. Chaisson was responsible for a quality restoration of the homes at 120 and 126 N. Hibbert.

First motion made by Board member Swann to approve the nomination of Paul Chaisson for a Historic Preservation Award for Rehabilitation and Restoration of properties at 120 and 126 N. Hibbert and seconded by Board member Alvrus.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Taylor absent)

7. Consider and discuss options for keeping Council informed of items important to the Historic Preservation Board

The Board determined they had already covered this topic in their discussions regarding the funding for the contract historic preservation position and the downtown façade improvement program. There was no further discussion.

8. Consider and discuss work plan items for the coming year

Staff member Wesley stated the Board had requested this item on the agenda as an opportunity to discuss in more detail what their plans are for the coming year. The Board members determined that their priorities are still the Historic Preservation Officer, the Downtown colonnade and façade improvement program.

9. Adjournment

Chair Gennevois adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf and seconded by Board member Mack-Allred.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Taylor 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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