



## Historic Preservation Board

**Date:** August 2, 2016

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

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

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D., Chair Janice Gennevois, Vice-Chair Greg Marek Louise Swann Milagros Zingoni	Brandon Benzing Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D.	John Wesley	Vic Linoff

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Schaffer-Metcalf called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Introduction of new Board members

New Board member Milagros Zingoni introduced herself to the Board.

3. Approval of the June 7, 2016 regular meeting minutes

Mr. Wesley noted that after the minutes had been sent out staff found two corrections to the minutes that needed to be made. One was correcting the spelling on Board member Zingoni's name and the other was adding the address for Nancy Thompson who spoke regarding the Heritage Neighborhood designation for Washington-Escobedo.

First Motion made by Board member Marek to approve the July 5 minutes as amended and seconded by Board member Zingoni.

Motion carried 5-0 (Board members Alvrus and Benzing absent)

4. Miscellaneous Items from the Audience

None.

5. Discuss upcoming student writing contest to include possible topics and timeline

Chair Shaffer-Metcalf introduced the topic and asked for Board ideas on a topic for the writing contest. After discussion of several topics, the Board settled on three:

- History of railroads in Mesa
- Holiday celebration in Mesa between 1890 and 1950
- An oral history of a senior citizen who grew up in Mesa

Chair Shaffer-Metcalf and staff member Wesley will work together to prepare the publicity information and submittal documents. Chair Shaffer-Metcalf reviewed the basic timeline to have responses prior to the Thanksgiving holiday and selection of the winners at the February

Board meeting. Two Board members will work together to narrow the submittals down to a top 10 for the Board to then determine the three winners.

There was discussion of obtaining the prize money and other alternative prizes.

#### 6. Discussion options and opportunities for holding meetings in historic neighborhoods

Chair Shaffer-Metcalf reminded the Board that they had previously held a meeting in a neighborhood and that there was a desire to do so again. She asked if the Board was still interested in doing this. The consensus of the Board was that it would be good to do this again in both existing historic districts and in areas that might considering historic designation. This will be placed on the next agenda for consideration of specific locations for such meetings.

Board member Zingoni stated she could possibly have a class project that would involve students working with home owners in a neighborhood to show how homes could be renovated and meet historic guidelines. This could be used to generate neighborhood interest in attending a meeting. It was determined it was probably too late to do this for the upcoming semester, but could be used next year.

#### 7. Discuss having a booth at the upcoming Downtown Mesa Second Friday events

The Board discussed the idea of continuing to have a booth at these events. It was decided that there is benefit to educating the public by taking part and there was agreement to participate in November, January, and March. At future meetings the Board will discuss further what can be displayed at these events to attract interest. At least two Board members will need to agree to participate during each event.

#### 8. Update on Draft Historic Landmark Sign Ordinance

Board member Swann mentioned that she had talked to the owner of the RB Motel on East Main about their neon sign. It is in working order and the owner would like to preserve it.

Board member Marek provided some background on the ordinance and an update on discussions since the last meeting. He has been in contact with Charlotte McDermott in the City Attorney's office regarding the Flagstaff ordinance. He has also been in contact with Vice-Mayor Kavanaugh who would like to see the ordinance completed before the end of the year.

Staff member Wesley provided a draft copy of a first attempt to follow the Flagstaff example and include provisions in the Historic Preservation chapter to address historic signs. This has had quick review and comment from the City Attorney's office and the Zoning Administrator. They believe this could work, but more time is needed to review and comment.

The Board asked Mr. Wesley to prepare a timeline for what needs to happen to get this to Council for approval in December.

Mr. Wesley stated the Attorney's office asked to schedule a meeting to review the options and discuss them further. This meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks and he will inform the Board of the outcome following the meeting.

Board member Zingoni asked if there was any consideration being given to the overall setting for these signs along Main Street given that with light rail redevelopment will occur that will likely move buildings closer to the street and either leave no place for the sign, or at least change that historic setting. Board member Marek noted that we are willing to allow the signs to be relocated, possibly on site and possibly to a historic sign park. Mr. Wesley stated this is an important additional consideration that the Board may want to discuss more in the future.

9. Updates on ongoing items:

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

Vic Linhof reminded the Board that Ron Peters had identified a contractor willing to remove a portion of the colonnade for free. They have now found a property owner willing to have their section removed and they are moving forward on this project.

b. Westside Clark local historic district designation progress

No update

c. Southwest corner of Mesa Drive and University (Site 17)

Vice-Chair Gennevois informed the Board of the public meeting that has happened regarding this site to obtain public input and stated there is a second one scheduled for this Thursday at 6:30 at the Utilities Building. You can also complete a survey on line. She said this item could come off the future agendas as an update item.

d. Certificates of Appropriateness cases

Mr. Wesley said the only new item received has been the request for the remodel of the Alhambra building on S. McDonald. This request is to remodel the building for use as student housing for Benedictine University. The developer has already worked with SHPO and received their approval. Staff is pretty good with the request, but has a few questions on details with doors and windows we are going to discuss with the applicants.

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

Vic Linoff addressed the Board and mentioned the following:

- Duke Manner, located at 9<sup>th</sup> Place and Country Club has interest in becoming a historic district.
- SHPO has narrowed the selection of a new historic preservation officer down to 3 finalists
- Dr. Jerry Howard has nominated the Buckhorn Baths for one of the 11 most endangered historic buildings.
- Demion Clinco with the Tucson Preservation Foundation has started an effort to have the route of US 80 designated as a historic highway throughout the state.
- Encourage members to attend a meeting of the Tempe Historic Preservation Board, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, to see what another Board is doing.

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

Among other regular items, an item will be added to discuss other options for involving older students in a contest, such as creating a video, regarding historic preservation.

12. Adjournment

Chair Shaffer-Metcalf adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Zingoni and seconded by Board member Marek.  
Motion carried 5-0 (Board members Alvrus and Benzing 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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