



## Historic Preservation Board

**Date:** April 4, 2017

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

**Location:** Woman's Club, 204 N. Macdonald

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D., Chair Janice Gennevois, Vice-Chair Greg Marek Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Brandon Benzing Louise Swann Milagros Zingoni		John Wesley Lauren Allsopp Jeff McVay	Kathrine Leonard Vic Linoff Residents of Flying Acres Others

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Schaffer-Metcalf called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of the March 7, 2017 regular meeting minutes

First Motion made by Board member Marek to approve the March 7, 2017 meeting minutes and seconded by Board member Benzing.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Zingoni arrived after the vote)

3. Miscellaneous Items from the Audience

4. Receive an update on and discuss the Downtown façade improvement and colonnade removal program

Staff member Jeff McVay provided the Board with an update on the project. Architects and properties have been selected. The goal is to preserve and restore the character of downtown. The Board expressed their satisfaction with the progress and encouraged continued efforts to maintain the historic character of the downtown area.

5. Discussion with State Historic Preservation Officer Kathryn Leonard regarding activities at the State Historic Preservation Office and the City of Mesa

Kathrine Leonard, State Historic Preservation Officer, introduced herself to the Board and provided an overview of the role of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), its relationship with the Federal program, and its work with Certified Local Governments such as Mesa.

Ms. Leonard expressed her appreciation for the work being done in Mesa and was particularly interested to hear about the downtown façade improvement program. She spoke about the economic impact historic preservation and adaptive reuse can have on a community and a downtown. She encouraged the Board to continue looking for endangered properties that could be rehabbed and adaptively reused. She stated she has seen these types of project have significant multipliers in the local economy.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Ms. Leonard regarding various opportunities for assistance from the SHPO and the City of Mesa. Grants available from SHPO can be used for things such as neighborhood surveys and surveying historic signs. The Board will work with staff to submit applications the next time the grants become available.

6. Review and discuss work priorities for designation of historic districts to include a general discussion and address the following specific projects
  - a. Possible modification to the Robson Historic District
  - b. Flying Acres (located north of Evergreen Historic District)

Staff member Allsopp updated the Board on work she has done to assist neighborhoods in their efforts to become historic districts. In particular, she has found the Flying Acres neighborhood north of the Evergreen Historic District to be a fairly intact neighborhood that is experiencing some threat from redevelopment. Specifically the property at 125 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. has been constructing a large garage that is out of scale with the neighborhood. Several people in the neighborhood have expressed interest in becoming a historic district to keep things like that from happening in the future.

Bernice Curro, property owner at 125 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St., addressed the Board and explained her situation and why it is taking some time to complete the building project on their property. She stated her support for a historic district designation.

Discussion ensued regarding the process and priorities for working with neighborhoods for historic designation. Board member Marek expressed his opinion that we should focus on intact neighborhoods and that maybe we should make better use of the Heritage Neighborhood designation for other neighborhoods.

Staff member Allsopp referred to the Sherwood neighborhood, that they are pretty intact except that some windows have been changed out. She mentioned maybe there could be a program to help property owners go back to original windows. Ms. Leonard stated that once a window has been changed there is no going back.

There was discussion regarding how a designation process is initiated and what is needed for approval. The process can start either from the neighborhood or city, but strong neighborhood support is needed for it to progress. Ms. Leonard stated that there is no requirement for neighborhood approval or support of a national register nomination, but it will not move forward if more than 50% object.

Board member Zingoni asked about how much change there can be in a structure and still have it considered for nomination. Ms. Leonard stated it is an evaluation of each structure to see if it still has its historic character or not. In some cases there can be several minor modifications and it still conveys the character; in other cases one big change may make it non-contributing. In putting together, a district there will always be some non-contributors. SHPO looks to see if there are at least 50% of the homes contributing; they prefer 70% or more.

Board member Marek stated that with interested neighborhoods there needs to be a preliminary survey to determine if there are sufficient properties to move forward. Staff member Allsopp explained the process she uses to try and achieve this balance. The Board again questioned whether or not the Heritage Neighborhood designation might be a tool to help get the ball rolling and maintain some neighborhoods that would not qualify for a historic district. It was requested that this topic be on a future agenda.

Staff member Allsopp brought up the homes in Robson that were considered non-contributing because of age and discussed the options to see if they could be added to the district. Ms. Leonard explained that the best way to do that would be to review the information that established the historic period and extend that, if possible, to include the dates these homes

were built. The Board agreed it would be good to take the time to do this research and update the documents, if appropriate, to expand the period of significance for this district.

7. Updates on ongoing items:

a. Westside Clark local historic district designation progress

Staff member Allsopp informed the Board she has worked with the neighborhood to get the signatures needed to submit the application.

b. Draft Historic Landmark Sign Ordinance

Staff member Wesley stated there has been some direction to try and include this provision with the overall sign code update when it goes to Council rather than separating out the issues, but that might change again. There is still a lot of work to be done on the overall code, but we have now determined how we will deal with content so it is easy to now think about how this would apply to the historic signs.

c. Involvement of older students in historic preservation activity

The ad hoc group working on this now has a draft idea for this. They will be ready for further discussion at next month's meeting.

d. Endangered properties list

Staff member Allsopp stated she has a preliminary list and is developing the content. Board members asked for the opportunity to provide suggestions to the list. The list will be sent out to Board members for review and feedback.

e. Webpage update

Staff member Allsopp provided an update. There is a goal to have the new material ready for an overall webpage update happening soon. The target is to have the changes done by April 21.

f. Historic Preservation Awards

Board member Marek asked for another press release to be done.

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

Board member Marek informed the Board there will be a fundraiser at the National History Museum on April 28 at 6 pm called Beer and Bones and invited all to attend.

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

Possible items for the May agenda include priorities for grants, the awards, discussion of the heritage neighborhood designation, and the sign code.

10. Adjournment

Chair Schaffer-Metcalf adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Swann seconded by Board member Zingoni.  
Motion carried 7-0

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

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