

Historic Preservation Board



Minutes

Location: Lower Level Council Chambers – 57 E. First Street

Date: November 6, 2018 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Marek, Chair
Brandon Benzing, Vice-Chair
Milgros Zingoni
Jeri Meeks

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Laura Schaffer-Metcalf Ed.D.
Janice Gennevois
Benjamin Ayers

STAFF PRESENT:

Kim Steadman
Charlotte McDermott
Rebecca Gorton
Jeff McVay
Lindsey Balinkie

GUESTS:

Vic Linoff

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chair Marek called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes from the October 2, 2018 Board meeting.

First motion made by Board member Meeks to approve the October 2, 2018 minutes and seconded by Vice Chair Benzing.

Vote: 4-0 (Board members Schaffer-Metcalf, Gennevois and Ayers, absent)
AYES – Marek, Benzing, Zingoni, Meeks
NAYS - None

3. Items from citizens present.*

None

4. Hear and discuss an update on the City's request for proposal (RFP) for the development of "Site 17" located in the vacant land south of University Drive and west of Mesa Drive (north of the Glenwood Wilbur Historic District).

Jeff McVay, Manager of Downtown Transformation introduced Lindsey Balinkie, who is assisting Mr. McVay on the Master Planning of the development known as "Site 17". Ms. Balinkie stated staff has begun the community outreach process, and presented an overview which included history of the project.

Ms. Balinkie explained this is a six month master planning process. The first portion of the process will be gathering input and suggestions from the community. In January, 2019 the consultants will present three concepts to the community. The consultants will then present their findings to Council in late March or April.

Mr. McVay explained after this process, the plan is to go out to the development community and solicit proposals for development. The preferred route is for the City to act as the horizontal developer and then market parcels one at a time. Mr. McVay stated this provides the City the benefit of not having one master developer that may want to water down the development and we want to have variety.

5. Hear and discuss a presentation on the 1st Avenue streetscape project located in the Right of Way of 1st Avenue, between Mesa Drive and LeSueur within the Temple Historic District.

Chair Marek stated his concern that this design for 1st Avenue streetscape be in keeping with the historic streetscape of the late 30's and 40's. Mr. Marek would like the Historic Preservation Board be involved early in the project. Jeff McVay, Manager of Downtown Transformation stated the City does not yet have a design for 1st Avenue. He explained City Creek Reserve has a design they would like the City to build and the City has not committed to that design. Mr. McVay stated they are working through some issues and before we get to a concept there will be public engagement which will include the Historic Preservation Board.

6. Review Mesa's current Historic Preservation Website and make suggestions for revisions.

There was discussion on how to update the webpage in order for the public to easily maneuver around the website. Historic Preservation Officer Kim Steadman suggested implementing "buttons" to logically find items. The website as it is designed now is difficult to maneuver around and locate historic properties, property register and could be confusing to the public. There was discussion and ideas for updating and organizing the webpage to make it easy to use. There were several suggestions for reorganizing the site to allow citizens easier access. Mr. Steadman stated he will make revisions and this can be discussed at future meetings.

7. Discuss procedures for reviewing submittals for the writing and video contests.

At this time there have not been any submittals for the writing and video contests. This item will be discussed at the December meeting.

8. Discuss moving forward with the project for a Neon Sign park and working with owners of historic signs to preserve them.

Chair Marek reminded the Board the sign ordinance was approved in July 2018 and the neon sign grant has been completed. Mr. Marek stated he does not want to lose momentum for this project and introduced Vin Linoff with the Mesa Preservation Foundation who has been working hard to save and store signs. Mr. Marek stated the next step is to contact property owners that have signs which could be saved and to look for a location to display them.

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Mr. Linoff spoke about working together with the community to save more signs. He stated there are now 4 signs; Sally's Fabrics, Dairy Queen, the Frontier Hotel and the Bill Johnson's Signs and we are able to accept signs that are outside of Mesa city limits. He has been in contact with Michael Levene, of the Arizona Vintage Sign Coalition. He had acquired a few signs which he has donated to the Foundation.

Mr. Linoff stated it is time to think about ways to best display these signs. Mesa Preservation Foundation has a slide presentation showing how signs have been on display around the country. Mr. Linoff will show this presentation at the December meeting. There was further discussion among the Board members regarding how to create a way to display the neon signs.

9. 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.)

- a. Mr. Steadman stated the position for the Historic Preservation Officer has been posted and closes on November 15. Interviews will begin after the new Planning Director is on board and can be a part of the hiring process.
- b. The City Attorney will be doing a presentation on Open Meeting Law and Social Media at the December meeting.

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

Board member Meeks announced the Mesa Historic Museum new Director is on board and doing well. She stated the Museum is being relocated from downtown back to Lehi and the Lehi facility is being updated. The Home Tour is scheduled for January and the Hall of Fame Dinner and Ceremony will be in March. Ms. Meeks has resigned from the Museum and continues to have a good working relationship with them. Ms. Meeks stated this will give her an opportunity to volunteer to work on Archives.

11. Future agenda items.

Chair Marek would like to discuss the January 2019 meeting date, and suggested an update on developing the Sirrine House.

12. Adjournment.

First motion made by Board member Meeks to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm and seconded by Board member Zingoni.

Vote: 4-0 (Boardmember Schaffer-Metcalf; Gennevois; and Ayers, absent)
AYES – Marek; Benzing; Zingoni and Meeks
NAYS – None

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*Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. The Arizona Open Meeting Law (ARS § 38-431 et seq.) limits the Historic Preservation Board to discussing only those matters specifically listed on the agenda.

Any citizen wishing to speak on an agenda item should complete and turn in a blue card to City staff before that item is presented. When the Board considers the item, you will be called to the podium to provide your comments.

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