

Historic Preservation Board



Minutes

Location: Lower Level Council Chambers – 57 E First Street

Date: October 1, 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
Christine Zielonka
Deyannie Gilmore

GUESTS:

Vic Linoff
Other citizens who did not sign in

1. Call Meeting to Order.
Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes from the September 3, 2019 board meeting.
Chair Marek asked Board member Ayers to clarify the correct name of the RIO program, in which Board member Ayers stated it's called RIO Re-Imagine. The Board requested staff to make the correction on the minutes for the September 3rd meeting to reflect the change. Board member Schaffer-Metcalf also asked staff to make a correction on the September 3rd minutes, specifically on item #7 of the minutes to change the wrong spelling of "teaches" to "teachers". Board Member Zingoni moved to approve the minutes and Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0
Ayes: Greg Marek, Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Milagros Zingoni, Jeri Meeks, Benjamin Ayers, Barbara Bingham (Vice-Chair Brandon Benzing, arrived at 6:03)
Nays: None
3. Items from citizens present*
None
4. Discuss and take action on a request for demolition of a nonresidential building located at 105 S. Mesa Drive
Dr. Appiah stated Section 11-74-4b of the Mesa Zoning Ordinance lays out criteria

for approving any request for demolition, which requires approval authorization from the Historic Preservation Board. The specific criteria states when a building or structure is of minimal significance because of its location, condition, modification or other factor or if the demolition or structure will not be important to the preservation of the property, then the Board shall grant authority to obtain a permit for demolition”.

Based on the location of the building and structure, staff reviewed the historic survey information of both buildings and determined the buildings are not contributing structures to the Temple Historic District. Staff also discussed the project with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) to get their recommendation on the structures and specifically asked if removing both buildings would have an impact on the Historic District. The SHIPO recommended the building is not a contributing structure to the Historic District and can be demolished. Dr. Appiah presented a 3D model displaying all the improvements and what was being purposed, which is small and complementary. He also mentioned the building structures will obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness, which is reviewed administratively but staff felt the need to show the Board what will be developed after demolition of the buildings.

Based on the requirements of the Mesa Zoning Ordinance, staff is recommending approval to demolish the buildings.

Board member Zingoni asked if demolition of the building will change the zoning change? Dr. Appiah stated the zoning would not change, also there is a form-base code, which has a strict and prescribed requirement and development standard to guide proposed development of the site.

Vice Chair Benzing stated based on what is being proposed and given the sensitivity of the area, he thought the two proposed structures strengthen the area and preserve the historic single-family bungalows. He supports both properties to be demolished. He said it will help the preservation of the rest of the district and keeping it in tack.

Board member Zingoni stated she drove by the structures and believe the structure does not have any value from an Architectural point of view or cultural significance and feels comfortable making a motion to approve the demolition.

Board member Zingoni motioned to approve the demolition based on the findings in the staff report that the building has no historical significance and demolition will be inconsequential to the historic district and properties. Vice Chair Benzing second the motion.

Vote: 7-0

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

Nays: None

5. Discuss and take action on a request for demolition of a nonresidential building located at 409. East 1st Avenue.

Vice Chair Benzing motioned to approve the demolition based on the findings in the report that the buildings have no historic significance and demolition will be inconsequential to the historic district and properties. Board member Zingoni second the motion.

Vote: 7-0

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

Nays: None

6. Discuss and take action on Bylaws for the Historic Preservation Committee.
The Board requested certain changes to proposed by-laws and requested Dr. Appiah to confirm if the City Charter has any limitation on terms of service for other Boards. The Board also request Dr. Appiah to reference the State law on the section of the bylaws on holding open public meetings.

It was decided to take action on this item at the November 5, 2019 meeting.

7. Discuss possible t-shirts for the Historic Preservation Board.
Board member Schaffer-Metcalf proposed getting t-shirts for the Historic Preservation Board and possibly for staff as well. The purpose of the t-shirt is to differentiate the Board from other municipal groups. Suggestions include black t-shirts with the diving lady painted in neon in the front of the t-shirt, and possible verbiage may also include "Mesa Dive into Historic Preservation" or "Dive into History".

Vice Chair Benzing stated the t-shirt idea could display togetherness and uniqueness. Some of the Board members also mentioned the t-shirts would be a good idea to have for outreach engagements and make it easy for residents to identify Board members during certain functions in the community.

Chair Marek suggested to make the t-shirts affordable and available for everyone in the community which can also promote the historic preservation program as well.

Dr. Appiah stated he would take the request to Christine Zielonka, Director of Development Services and the City Administration to see if the City can absorb the cost of the initial t-shirts. He also said it would be a great idea to consider giving each award recipient a t-shirt as an incentive, including Council to wear during the historic preservation award ceremony. Dr. Appiah asked if the Board will form a sub-committee to review and come up with few designs and bring their ideas back to the Board for discussion. The Board agreed to form a sub-committee with the following members: Vice Chair Benzing, Board member Schaffer-Metcalf and Board member Zingoni.

Board member Zingoni, suggested having the youth design t-shirt as part of the student competition as well.

8. Discuss and provide staff direction on the 2019-2020 Historic Preservation Student Writing and Video Contests.
Board member Schaffer-Metcalf stated there are three documents (flyer, registration and information sheet) that goes out for the writing contest. She recommended that the Board distribute the information in January after a list of topics have been agreed upon. Some of the topics discussed include the following:

- First of Mesa (schools, families, grocery stores, hardware stores, post office)
- The role of air force base in Mesa
- Timeline and growth of Mesa (during 1940's – 1980's)
- Life on Main Street-from the perspective of a shop owner
- Recreation on the Rio Salado
- Life in the desert as water flows up hill

The Board agreed to discuss and finalize the top three and regroup during the November meeting to make their selection.

9. Hear an update and discuss the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant applications to obtain funding to make revisions to the City's Historic Preservation Zoning Ordinance and the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines.

Dr. Appiah provided the Board with an update on the CLG grant. He stated the City submitted two grant application on Aug 16th. The first grant is to re-write a Section of the City's Zoning Ordinance pertaining to historic preservation. The request is for \$40,000, if the City gets it, it will be in the amount of \$20,000 from the grant and the City will be required to match it. He informed the Board that the City Council approved \$50,000 in this year budget for such projects. Dr. Appiah also informed the Board that he received an email from Eric Vondy from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) asking the City's preference and ~~Me~~*priority meet priorities* as the SHIPO may only be able to fund one grant. Dr. Appiah recommended the \$20,000 grant.

Chair Marek asked if the \$20,000 was just for the ordinance. Dr Appiah specified the grant was specifically for the Zoning Ordinance, but additional fund can be added to write both the Zoning Ordinance and the Design Guidelines.

10. Historic Preservation Officer's Updates:

- a. Provide status of the Historic Preservation Officer recruitment process.
Dr. Appiah informed the Board, there were two candidates who went through an extensive two-day interview process and met with almost every department that's affiliated with historic preservation functions of the City. He stated it is imperative that the candidate fit in with the City's staff and administration, and is creative, thinks outside of the box, as well as, has a strong foundation and understanding of historic preservation.

Dr. Appiah also informed the Board that the City is working diligently with the Human Resources Department to get the candidate onboard as soon as possible. He also recommended that both the Board and staff work to ensure the success of the person.

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

Chair Marek gave an update on the Historic Preservation Awards which was initially scheduled on October 7, 2019 but was rescheduled to October 21, 2019 due to the unavailability of several recipients.

Board member Meeks stated the Mesa Historical Museum will be hosting a cemetery tour on October 26, 2019 from 8am – 9am. The cost is \$15/per adult and \$5/per child. Also, the home tour will open February 2020.

12. Recognition of Board Member Jeri Meeks

Chair Marek presented Board member Meeks with a Certificate for her dedicated service to the Board. Everyone wished her well in all her future endeavors.

13. Future agenda items.

Writing Contest

Revised By-Laws

T-shirts

14. Adjournment.

Board member Meeks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. and was seconded by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf.

Vote: 7-0

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

Nays: None