

Minutes

Virtual Platform

Date: June 02, 2020 Time: 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Marek, Chair
Brandon Benzing, Vice-Chair
Laura Schaffer-Metcalf Ed.D.
Benjamin Ayers
Milagros Zingoni
Barbara Bingham
Jim Babos

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Nana Appiah
Arianna Urban

GUESTS:

Vic Linoff

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chair Marek called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes from the March 03, 2020 Historic Preservation Board meeting.

Chair Marek asked for discussion on the minutes or a motion to approve.

As no Members of the Board raised any comments, Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf moved to approve the minutes with such changes and Board Member Babos seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0

Ayes: Greg Marek, Brandon Benzing, Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Barbara Bingham, James Babos, Benjamin Ayers, Board Member Zingoni

Nays: None

3. Items from citizens present*

Vic Linoff remarked that the agenda for the upcoming virtual historic preservation conference is now available online and is free to register.

4. Discuss registration for the virtual Arizona historic preservation conference.

Ms. Arianna Urban recounted that the conference agenda had been recently published and encouraged Board Members to attend if they are available, as the registration is free. Sessions can be chosen at the discretion of the attendant.

Several Board Members remarked that they have already registered or are planning on registering for the conference. Chair Marek posited that it will be an interesting conference with a diversity of topics and sessions included.

5. Hear and discuss a report from the Chair on the Mesa Federal Building rehabilitation project.

Chair Marek reported that a meeting was held on May 24th involving the project architect, City employees, and local preservation experts regarding the Federal Building rehabilitation currently in the design phase. As the building was designated in 2004 as a local landmark with an HL overlay, a Certificate of Appropriateness will be necessary before building permits can be issued. The current project is largely focused on the interior of the building, but will include a modified entry sequence with a wheelchair ramp, and possible other programming in the rear parking lot area. A largely open-concept plan was introduced, as a particular use has yet to be determined. The upper floors are proposed for office and open space, and the basement may continue to be used for museum storage. The proposals appeared to be in keeping with the historic nature of the building and did not raise concern.

Chair Marek recounted that at the start of his term, Mayor Giles suggested that Mesa history research materials and resources should be consolidated to a central repository for ease of access and use, and that the second floor of the rehabilitated Federal Building may be opportune. Mr. Vic Linoff has also raised the possibility of using the building or its exterior to house a Mesa neon sign museum.

Dr. Appiah added that the City is very mindful of the building's local designation, and the City Manager is committed to preserving the historic integrity of the property. Engineering has also involved Historic Preservation Office staff throughout the process. Ms. Urban feels confident in the abilities of the architect to treat the building as a historic resource and their commitment to sympathetic design.

Mr. Linoff agreed with Ms. Urban, and continued that the next challenge will be determining a use for the interior.

6. Historic Preservation Officer's Updates:

- a. Update on the Certified Local Government grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to update Mesa's Historic Preservation Design Guidelines and Zoning Ordinance.

Ms. Urban related that staff in the process of composing a contract for the grant award.

- b. Update on community education, citizen outreach, and public programs focused on Mesa's historic districts to provide preservation information for historic property owners.

Staff is planning to incorporate community outreach with that performed by the consultant for the upcoming grant project, which will be a joint effort. Postcards are being planned to advertise these virtual events. Dr. Appiah added that a major program goal has been to build a strong outreach and education program and give the community access to staff and information. Despite current challenges, other virtual and electronic mediums are available to achieve these outcomes and will extend beyond the design guidelines and code amendments as we continue to find ways to engage with the community.

7. **Hear reports form Board Members on museum, exhibits, committees, and/or events related to historic preservation.**

Chair Marek relayed that the Mesa Historical Museum has received an Arizona Humanities Grant in order to create a resource room within the museum available to researchers.

Board Member Schaffer-Metcalf proposed that the essay and video contest be restarted in the fall, dependent on how or if students return to school in the fall. The situation will be monitored as it progresses.

8. **Future agenda items.**

Update on Zoning Ordinance and Design Guidelines contract and project timeline
Summary and discussion of experience with online historic preservation conference

9. **Adjournment.**

Board Member Benzing motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. and was seconded by Board Member Zingoni.

Vote: 7-0

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

Nays: None

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