

Minutes

Hybrid Platform
57 E 1st St

Date: May 2, 2023 Time: 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brandon Benzing, Chair
Jim Babos, Vice-Chair
Jocelyn Skogebo
Bruce Nelson
BJ Parsons
Russ Haughey
Ty Utton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Mary Kopaskie-Brown
Charlotte McDermott
Michelle Dahlke
Maura Jackson

GUESTS:

(*Board members and staff participated in the meeting through the use of telephonic and audio conference equipment.)

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chair Benzing

Okay, let's get started. We'll call this May meeting of the Historic Preservation Board to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Approval of the minutes from the April 4, 2023 Historic Preservation Board meeting.

Chair Benzing

Did anybody have any edits they'd like to make or are we good? Do we have a motion to approve?

Boardmember Parsons

I make a motion to approve the minutes.

Boardmember Utton

I'll second that.

AYES: Benzing-Skogebo-Nelson-Parsons-Haughey-Utton

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: Babos

3. Discuss and take action on the 2023 Mesa Historical Essay 4th – 6th grade contest submissions including selecting the winners.

Michelle Dahlke

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board members. As you know, we sent out an email to you with two written essays that we did receive by the deadline. The majority of you responded favoring essay number one as first place. That was "Women Who Made Mesa Possible". Essay number two, which was the "100 Year Difference" was second prize. Since you voted on the other visual arts winners in person as a Board, we would like to ask you if you could please do that for these winners as well.

Chair Benzing

Okay, does everybody recall the two essays then to be voted on? Well then, do we have a motion to make essay number one, first place and essay number two second?

Boardmember Haughey

I move so.

Chair Benzing

Do we have a second?

Vice-Chair Babos

I second.

AYES: Benzing-Babos-Skogebo-Nelson-Parsons-Haughey-Utton

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

4. Confirm the programs, events and outreach efforts planned in May 2023 to celebrate Mesa Historic Preservation Month.

Michelle Dahlke

Thank you very much. We've made a lot of progress on that. We're happy to provide you with a proposed itinerary for the May 13th Historic Preservation Month celebration. The setup will be

from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Staff will take care of that. It's going to be at The Nile as you will remember. The Mayor will be in attendance, as well as Councilmember Duff. They'll both make some comments celebrating Historic Preservation Month. We're really glad to have them with us that day. A few words from you, we hope as the Chair. We always rely on you for your emcee skills, for all the other award presentations. Then we'll do an introduction of the Board members who are planning on being there that day as well. Then we'll have the awards presentation. We'll have certificates, as well as the checks for the winners. We're hoping that you will help us with awarding those items to the winners. Then we'll have refreshments. Maura has put together a really neat walking tour proposal. She's physically walked it and timed it. It will first start with The Nile. Ron Peters will be there to describe the history of The Nile. Starting with the inside and then going outside to the exterior. It will be followed by the Alhambra Hotel, Irving School, the Serrine House, highlights of the West 2nd Street Historic District, and the Mesa Women's Club. Then examples of a Craftsman home, Territorial and a Mission home. Then, I call it the really neat horse carriage step that's on Macdonald by the Strauch House. The Federal Building, aka The Post building, then circling back to The Nile. We will have a scavenger hunt contest too throughout the tour. Maura was thinking, which I also thought was a good idea, is to have, for example, some of the historic properties and then you're going to be matching with certain historical or I should say, architectural features of each building. Then they bring that back to us at the end of the scavenger hunt and we'll have some prizes. The Mesa Historical Museum has donated some prizes. We're working on some other prizes from the downtown Mesa businesses. So, it should be a fun event, I think.

Chair Benzing

What did we decide on the time?

Michelle Dahlke

Thank you for saying that. 10:30 am is when I was planning to have the initial introduction. Maura and I will be there earlier. If you would like to be there earlier, we'll be there probably by 9:30. The Nile will be a good venue for it. We did go inside, and I think it'll be perfect. They're going to take good care of us for that event. Did I forget anything Maura about the tour? We think about 2:00 pm it will end. The walking tour, when Maura took it, was about 45 minutes. Hopefully, it will still be relatively nice temperature wise.

Chair Benzing

That's after the talk by Mr. Peterson at The Nile?

Michelle Dahlke

Yes.

Vice-Chair Babos

Do you need help setting anything up?

Michelle Dahlke

We would enjoy your company. If you would like to that would be great. Thanks.

Chair Benzing

Then we'll agendize it right. Since I assume that multiple Board members are there.

Michelle Dahlke

Yes. Thank you very much.

Boardmember Nelson

Is this final? Is it set in stone what's going to happen? Can we add anything?

Michelle Dahlke

Did you have something in mind Boardmember Nelson that you would like to add?

Boardmember Nelson

Am I allowed to ask questions like this? The Nile has been trying to get designated as a historical building. It would be a great time to move it along, they've been trying to do that for a while, if that is progressing.

Michelle Dahlke

Did you want to speak to that?

Charlotte McDermott

On the agenda is to talk about the ,let me see specifically how it is agenda, it's to talk about programs and events and outreach efforts. So, you can talk about those types of efforts. If you have any questions about a specific project in the city of Mesa, it doesn't seem like it falls within what's been agendize. But that's something you can have staff put on a future agenda for discussion.

Boardmember Nelson

I'm just seeing what I can ask. So, can we ask about adding anything to this agenda or not?

Chair Benzing

To the program of events?

Charlotte McDermott

Yes, you can. If you want to add an item to what they've already discussed, as far as outreach efforts to celebrate the 2023 Mesa Historic Preservation Month, you can ask to do that. You can ask for clarification on any events, things of that nature. Absolutely.

Boardmember Nelson

We're highlighting being at The Nile. You said someone's going to give us a history of The Nile.

Michelle Dahlke

Ron Peters.

Boardmember Nelson

I have a trailer that is a documentary about this. Would that be possible to show since that's the site we're celebrating?

Maura Jackson

Chair and Boardmember Nelson, that is a great addition. I will say next year, if I'm allowed to, The Nile will be 100 so, we have some ideas brewing. But yes, we can certainly look at, if you're open to it, playing that at the event.

Boardmember Nelson

I'm asking if that's possible.

Vice-Chair Babos

How long is it?

Boardmember Nelson

About two minutes.

Mary Kopaskie-Brown

Chair, Board members, is it something that could be looped so that people, as they come in, could see the two-minute video? And then as new people come in, they could see it and it would be looped.

Boardmember Nelson

Sure. I mean, once you have it, you could lock it in like that. Since you chose that destination, Ron knows a lot about it, I'm sure he does, some of you may know or may not I did produce a documentary about it, so I have a little bit of knowledge about it. I met the great granddaughter and grandson just over the weekend when they came into town.

Chair Benzing

Great addition to it.

Boardmember Nelson

We'll see what we can do. Thank you.

Michelle Dahlke

Thank you.

Chair Benzing

So, for that Maura, will you and Boardmember Nelson just get together?

Boardmember Nelson

Yeah, we'll go back and forth. We'll coordinate and see what's doable.

Boardmember Skogebo

Just to clarify. It's a self-guided tour, or will it be led?

Maura Jackson

We are going to do the tour as a group, but we could maybe have some printouts if somebody wants to walk it themselves. We can develop it into a self-guided but we're going to go as a group.

Boardmember Skogebo

How long did you say the tour has taken?

Maura Jackson

It took us about 45 minutes to walk it. When we did the test run, we had The Studios building included. It took a little bit too long with all of that, I think with the heat and stuff. So, I would just say about 45 minutes.

Mary Kopaskie-Brown

Chair, Board members, one thing to consider is that as you're stopping in each of these places, there's a good chance people might ask questions. So, I don't know if it's going to actually be 45 minutes, it's likely to be longer. I'm wondering if maybe you want to consider all of those places to be on that tour. Because if you get to a building, people are going to start asking questions about it, right? And next thing you know, you're out there in the sun at eleven o'clock in the morning for two to three hours. It's maybe something to consider, you know, is there a way to maybe pare some of those down?

Chair Benzing

That is a good point. We could even do it, where we have a cutoff point. Because I assume these are all in order here. Is the Federal building open yet or is it still under development? Is it an outside looking discussion about it? It almost seems like if we get to the Women's Club that's, you know, The Nile, Alhambra, Irving school, Sistine House and the Women's Club. Those are kind of key ones at the very beginning. Then if that takes longer than 45 minutes, and we start to see a drop off, maybe we just cut it. How does everybody feel about that?

Mary Kopaskie-Brown

Would you want to go to The Post? Is that on the way at all?

Chair Benzing

The Post is at the very . . .

Michelle Dahlke

Tail end, before we get coming back.

Chair Benzing

Is there a way to loop it so we go down 1st Street?

Michelle Dahlke

I'm sure we could work it out.

Chair Benzing

We should look at a way, if there's not a lot of questions, we can hit them all. And if there's a way where if it starts getting a little bit warm, and we're starting see people drop off, we have a way to cut the loop short.

Boardmember Nelson

Will there be somebody at each destination in case people want to stay longer to ask more questions or is it just going to be the folks that arrive? Like is there somebody at Irving school who can talk about Irving school in case people want to stay and catch up with a group later or we just going to move everybody along at the same time?

Maura Jackson

For this year, there's not going to be someone stationed. But that's an idea we might use for the future. I will say some of these stops are more of a "here's what it is" and we're still walking along. We're not necessarily going to stay at each place.

Boardmember Nelson

Okay. So, it's a real quick . . . this is Irving school, next.

Maura Jackson

Well, maybe not for that one. But these are these are great ideas. If you have further ideas that you want to implement for next year . .

Boardmember Nelson

I'm thinking people may ask. We'll say we're moving on. Get it in gear. I'm good with it.

Boardmember Parsons

Are we going to be able to give people that are attending like a brochure or a map, or little tidbits of what exactly they're stopping to take a look at?

Maura Jackson

Yes, we're planning to have some type of little printout.

Michelle Dahlke

We have a table that will have set up with historic preservation information, brochures, maps, stickers. Anything fun that we can think of to promote the Historic Preservation Program.

Boardmember Skogebo

Or maybe even just a QR code that people could scan. They just have it on their phone. That might be an idea.

Mary Kopaskie-Brown

Great idea.

Vice-Chair Babos

I'm not sure who came up with the scavenger hunt idea of "Did you have the specifics on the mission gable of this building?" but I think that's an excellent idea. I really do.

Michelle Dahlke

I thought it was too. Good job Maura.

Chair Benzing

The other item for celebrating Preservation Month is the Mayor is proclaiming May as Preservation Month for the city at the Council meeting on the 15th. If anybody would like to show up as well, I'll be there to accept it. I assume we're going to be doing the kids as well.

Michelle Dahlke

Yes.

Chair Benzing

So, if anybody else would like to come. Do we agendize that as a separate HPB meeting or how's that happen if we have more than a quorum at a City Council meeting?

Michelle Dahlke

Usually, it's been just you in the past working with us and the staff. I don't think we would have to, but we'll ask the Attorney, because it will be on the City Council agenda already.

Vice-Chair Babos

What is the date of that?

Michelle Dahlke

May 15th in the evening at 5:45 pm. Better to get there earlier at 5:30 just in case.

*Planning Director, Mary Kopaskie-Brown and Assistant City Attorney, Charlotte McDermott considered Chair Benzing's question regarding a possible quorum at the City Council meeting.

Chair Benzing

So, if anybody would like to attend that City Council meeting, it's usually the beginning. The last couple years, we've announced the awards, then the Mayor's proclaimed Preservation Month, and we can take a little photo op with the certificates. It's at 5:45 pm on May 15th.

Mary Kopaskie-Brown

If something changes, we'll let you know. Charlotte wants to verify.

Chair Benzing

Okay. Sure. If you need to know who's going to be in attendance, just send an email. Just to make sure we have a quorum, and it gets done properly, that'd be great.

For the event on the 13th, does anybody else have any other questions on what we're going to do or any other suggestions? Will we be provided at The Nile because it's going to be so warm out, like a cooler of water for people to take one to walk around with?

Michelle Dahlke

Yes, we'll have a cooler full of ice-cold beverages. Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to ask, if you could confirm who plans on attending the May 13th event just so that we have an idea?

Chair Benzing

Sure.

Michelle Dahlke

Looks like a whole group (by a show of hands). Thank you. Excellent.

Vice-Chair Babos

With our new shirts.

Chair Benzing

So, the full Board. Let's just reiterate the times again. So, 10:30 start. The Mayor and Councilmember Duff will do some introductions of themselves. We'll introduce the HPB program and Board members. Then we'll give out the prizes for the essay and the art contest and then we move onto the tour.

Michelle Dahlke

Refreshments and an introduction to what's going to happen with the tour. Then everybody's off and running after Ron Peters' presentation on The Nile.

Chair Benzing

As far as timeline, how much of an introduction do you think?

Michelle Dahlke

We have estimated 10:30 to 11:00 will get us through the Board member introduction. So, Mayor, Councilmember Duff, introduction regarding the program, and the Board introductions. Then the award presentations for about 30 minutes, 11:00 to 11:30. Refreshments, 11:30 to noon. The Nile presentation by Ron, 12:00 and 12:30. The tour starting right about 12:30. Hopefully coming back to The Nile about 2:00.

Chair Benzing

Great. Can you send out an agenda to the Board? Then also the winners and the places for the contest? Anybody else have anything for the event or Preservation Month?

Mary Kopaskie-Brown

Chair, Board members, I do have a question. Michelle, who's emceeing for the day. And is it one of our Board members?

Chair Benzing

I can emcee. That would be perfectly fine. Unless there's somebody else that would like to do it this year?

Michelle Dahlke

He has experience.

Mary Kopaskie-Brown

I just wanted to have that detail worked out.

Chair Benzing

Yes. I understand.

Michelle Dahlke

Thank you.

5. **Discuss and take action on moving the July Historic Preservation Board meeting from July 4, 2023 to July 11, 2023.**

Vice-Chair Babos

I'm okay with that.

Chair Benzing

Okay. We'll need a motion to move the meeting to the 11th and then a second.

Vice-Chair Babos

I make a motion that we move the July 4th HP meeting to July 11th.

Boardmember Haughey

I second.

AYES: Benzing-Babos-Skogebo-Nelson-Parsons-Haughey-Utton

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

6. **Hear reports from Board Members of current events related to historic preservation.**

Chair Benzing

Anybody have any moving into the summer other than the current Preservation Month celebration? Okay, then item number seven is HPO updates.

7. **Historic Preservation Officer's Updates.**

(The items in the Historic Preservation Officer's updates are not for Board discussion and no Board action will be taken on the updated items.)

Michelle Dahlke

The only update we have is actually a reminder. There are some cards in front of you regarding the new General Plan update that's being worked on with a link to a survey for you to share your thoughts individually on the General Plan.

8. **Items from citizens present.***

Chair Benzing

We do not have Mr. Linoff.

9. Future agenda items.

Chair Benzing

I do have two for next month. We should do a recap of the event. Just discuss what worked, what didn't, how we can adapt for next year. And then we have to put on the Chair and Vice-Chair elections for next month.

Boardmember Nelson

Would this be a place to discuss assisting The Nile theatre become a historic building? Could we discuss that here? What we could do. Is this the place to ask that or not?

Chair Benzing

Yes, it can go on the agenda to discuss The Nile theater.

Boardmember Nelson

How to help we help them. Solidify that.

Vice-Chair Babos

They want to be?

Boardmember Nelson

Yes.

Chair Benzing

Any other items for the agenda at this time?

10. Adjournment.

Chair Benzing

Okay, quick meeting. Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Vice-Chair Babos

I make a motion to adjourn the May 2nd meeting of the Board.

Boardmember Skogebo

I second.

Chair Benzing

This meeting is adjourned at 6:23 pm.

AYES: Benzing-Babos-Skogebo-Nelson-Parsons-Haughey-Utton

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**A recording of the meeting is available upon request. Please contact the Planning Department with questions, 480-644-2385.