

Historic Preservation Board



Minutes

Mesa City Council Chambers – Lower level, 57 E 1st Street
Date: September 2, 2025 Time: 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Babos, Chair
Jocelyn Skogebo, Vice Chair
Bruce Nelson
BJ Parsons
Jessica Sarkissian
Lamont Slater
Jason Ludwig

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Matthew Kriegl
Kelly Whittemore
Kellie Rorex
Dawn Dallman

CITIZEN SPEAKERS:

Vic Linoff

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

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chair Babos declared a quorum present. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm.

2. Introduction of New Board Member – Jason Ludwig.

Summary:

Boardmember Ludwig introduced himself, mentioning his experience with historic boards and his interest in aerial history.

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3. Approval of the minutes from August 5, 2025 Historic Preservation Board meeting

It was motioned by Boardmember Nelson, seconded by Boardmember Parsons, that the minutes from August 5, 2025 Historic Preservation meeting be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Babos-Skogebo-Nelson-Parsons-Sarkissian-Slater-Ludwig

NAYS - None

EXCUSED – None

ABSENT – None

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for Historic Preservation Board

It was motioned by Boardmember Parsons, seconded by Boardmember Sarkissian to re-elect James Babos as Chair and Jocelyn Dkogeno as Vice Chair.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Babos-Skogebo-Nelson-Parsons-Sarkissian-Slater-Ludwig

NAYS - None

EXCUSED – None

ABSENT – None

5. Discussion Items:

5-a. Discuss the 2026 Mesa Historic Preservation Board Retreat and potential date, time, venue, and topics for the retreat

Summary:

Matthew Kriegl, Historic Preservation Officer, discussed options for the 2026 Historic Preservation Board retreat, suggesting various dates, times, and venues. Chair Babos stated he prefers the retreat to be held offsite. Boardmember Nelson suggested finding a space in a historical neighborhood and offered to provide a link to his North Town documentary as well as his upcoming documentary about the Nile Theater. The group decided the best dates for the retreat will be January 10, 2026 or January 24, 2026.

5-b. Discuss the May 2026 Historic Preservation Month Student Essay and Visual Arts contest and potential essay and visual arts contest topics

Summary:

Mr. Kriegl discussed the theme for Historic Preservation Month 2026: "Mesa Through Time: Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future." Various topics for the student essay and visual arts contest were proposed, including improving historic sites, designing a mural or sign, juxtaposing Mesa then & now, among other ideas. Board members discussed

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the importance of incorporating “local” history and liked the idea of group projects. Staff will finalize the topics and then present the selected topics at the next Board meeting.

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

Chair Babos inquired about the Board buying a brick to support the Mesa Historical Museum and requested the topic be added to next month’s agenda. Boardmember Nelson reminds everyone about the upcoming cemetery tour on October 25, 2025.

7. Items from citizens present.**

Vic Linoff from the Mesa Preservation Foundation, 628 N Center St discussed House Bill 2721 and its potential impact on historic districts. Mr. Linoff also provided updates on the future operation of the Sistine House, the acquisition of neon signs, a potential display location for those signs, and the involvement of the Mesa Preservation Foundation in the America 250 Committee.

8. Historic Preservation Officer’s Updates.*

Mr. Kriegl shared the following items with the Board:

- Mr. Kriegl provided an update on the art and essay contest, including the anticipated timeline for distribution and the involvement of other city departments. The event will be held at The Post on Saturday morning, May 2, 2026.
- Mr. Kriegl shared information on how to stay informed about all the upcoming events the city is rolling out in conjunction with the America 250 Celebration.
- Presentations will be potentially given at the October 7, 2025 meeting on the upcoming revisions to the Historic Preservation Guidelines and Code Revisions.
- The next HP Board meeting is expected to be held at the new City Hall building. Staff will inform Board members of any change of location and encourage Board members to pay close attention to the location details referenced in upcoming emails from staff.

9. Adjournment.

It was motioned by Boardmember Ludwig, seconded by Boardmember Sarkissian, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Babos-Skogebo-Nelson-Parsons-Sarkissian-Slater-Ludwig

NAYS - None

EXCUSED – None

ABSENT – None

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Respectfully submitted,

James Babos
Historic Preservation Board Chair

* These items are not for Board discussion and no Board action will be taken on the items.

** The public 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.

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