

Minutes

Mesa City Council Chambers – Lower level, 57 E 1st Street
Date: February 6, 2024 Time: 6:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Babos, Chair
Jocelyn Skogebo, Vice Chair
BJ Parsons
Ty Utton*

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Bruce Nelson
Jessica Sarkissian

STAFF PRESENT:

Mary Kopaskie-Brown
Rachel Nettles
Brett Hanlon
Kellie Rorex

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 excused Boardmember Sarkissian from the entire meeting and declared a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2023 Historic Preservation Board meeting.

It was motioned by Vice Chair Skogebo, seconded by Boardmember Parsons, that the minutes from the December 5, 2023 Historic Preservation meeting be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Babos-Skogebo- Parsons-Utton
NAYS - None
EXCUSED – Sarkissian
ABSENT - Nelson

3. Discussion Items:

3-a. Discuss properties identified for potential inclusion on the Supplemental List.

Discussion between Boardmembers and Staff about properties currently on the supplemental list ensued. As a result, Staff will be presenting a new document that more clearly outlines what properties are on the supplemental list and has asked the Boardmembers to be mindful of other properties they would like to see added to this list.

3-b. Discuss Historic Preservation resources and logistics in preparation for the February 12th Historic Preservation Community Meeting.

Staff went over the items to be discussed at the community meeting explaining that the resource guides presented at the retreat would be shared with the public along with an update on the design guidelines and the text amendments.

3-c. Starting time of Historic Preservation Board Regular Monthly Meetings.

Staff presented the idea of moving the start time of the Historic Preservation Board meetings to an early time. Staff explained they would follow up with a survey to ensure they received all Boardmember's input.

4. Future Agenda items.*

4-a. GIS mapping of historic properties in Mesa.

4-b. Monitoring archaeological sites.

5. Hear reports from Board Members about current events or educational topics related to historic preservation.*

Chair Babos mentioned an article in the Arizona Republic that discusses a property in Phoenix along Roosevelt that had a historic home on a property that they moved 12 feet in order to provide space for additional housing and they are converting the old home into a restaurant.

6. Items from citizens present.**

Vic Linoff, 628 N Center St: The important thing about that movement of the house in Phoenix was that the city stepped in and provided \$400,000, it's going to cost more than that. It doesn't make much difference whether you move it 12 feet or 100 feet, but I think for moving and stabilizing it and the city's commitment to preservation like that tells a pretty big story. When you're talking about properties that belong on the supplemental list, something else that you probably should be looking at is the old McKellips Ranch and I don't have the address. That's out on East McKellips Road, it's very much intact, and it's been converted to residential apartments and people have lived there for years and years. But the main buildings are still there. Ariana and I were out there when she was here in the city, and they were very receptive to getting some sort of recognition. So, I think that's one that you might want to include, I can get you the address for it. You're talking about the citrus groves, just keep in mind that as far as

National Register goes, and we follow that closely in our guidelines here is landscaping can be in itself, part of the national register. You take the West Second Street district with the citrus or the orange trees in the medians, that is part of that district. And one time when the when those trees were dying, the city was going to tear them out. And we put some pressure on them and as a result, they were forced to replace them. So, keep that in mind, that's one of the reasons you're recognizing citrus. And then downtown, we have always had a goal. And we'd be the first in the valley to have a commercial Historic District. And when the majority of the colonnade is down, and the buildings are rehabilitated and restored, then we will have the ability to make that designation. So that that's the ultimate goal for removing the colonnades, so those buildings have individual identity. Also, I think, at the retreat, you talked a bit about mid-century modern, and I want to bring to your attention. I don't know if you have seen it. This is a really comprehensive document that we did in 2004. It's called, Mesa, Postwar Modern Single Family Subdivision Development 1946 to 1973. This is an exhaustive study by some of the best people, Debbie Abell, who was around preservation for years. And Liz Wilson did this for the, for our board, way back when, and I just did a little bit of research, and it's actually up online. If you go to the Mesa Historic Preservation Office website. You'll see this thing listed. But this is really important. Also, they did a spreadsheet from 1946 to I guess 1955 because this was 2004. That spreadsheet goes into even more detail on these neighborhoods. So, if you really are serious about exploring mid-century neighborhoods in this city, this is one of the best reports I've seen. It's got illustrations in designations of the various types of ranch homes. I didn't know they could come up with that many--there's like 30 different styles of ranch homes in there. And then I also wanted to tell you that I've been contacted by a teacher at Skyline High School. And this kind of fits in a little bit with what the board has been doing for the school competitions. This is a high school class that, for whatever reason has undertaken as an entire class, the project of doing what they can to save the Buckhorn Baths, and they have created standing committees. I mean, they've really got themselves organized. They've done a video so far. And I will be going out, I think on Tuesday to talk to the class, but they really want to get involved. And I find it really refreshing that kids who were basically born when the Buckhorn was in operation, are wanting to do something to save it. And that may be one of the most powerful statements that can be made when the next generation is saying, whoa, whoa, whoa, it's before our time, but we see why it's important. And one of the things I will talk to them about is coming to one of the board meetings and talking to the board about what they're trying to do. They're really trying to put a valid committee together whose goal is to save the Buckhorn Baths, and I've taken enough interest that I think it's worth going out and encouraging them. My computer nearly crashed, because all the students in that class sent me emails after they first formed. And I'm thrilled because that's the next generation of leadership. So hopefully, if we can get them to come to one of these meetings, you'll receive them warmly and help them anyway, you can. The Buckhorn, is probably, right now, the most significant at risk property in the city. And we've got to move fast. And we have to move with pressure in order to convince the ownership to really get working on it or give it up. So, we'll see what happens with that. The Mesa Historical Museum, particularly if you're interested in history and other good books, is having their big book sale next weekend, and they didn't do it last year because of the weather. And I think there's over 50,000 books, mostly in the \$1 range or less. So, if you want to come out there, it's Saturday and Sunday, Sunday is when most of the books will be half price.

7. Historic Preservation Officer's Updates.*

No additional updates.

8. Adjournment.

It was motioned by Boardmember Parsons, seconded by Vice Chair Skogebo, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Babos-Skogebo- Parsons-Utton

NAYS - None

EXCUSED – Sarkissian

ABSENT - Nelson

*These items are for Board discussion only - 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.

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