

# **City of Fresno**

*City Hall  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Monday, April 28, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**City Hall, Council Chambers**

## **Historic Preservation Commission**

***Chair - James Sponsler***

***Vice Chair - Jason Hatwig***

***Commissioner - Paul Halajian***

***Commissioner - Julie Federico***

***Commissioner - Elizabeth Laval***

***Commissioner - Sarah E. Johnston***

***Commissioner - Ryan Eddings***

***Staff:***

***Jennifer Clark, Director; Ashley Atkinson, Assistant Director;***

***Janice Monroe, M.A. II***

**THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION WELCOMES YOU TO COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED IN CITY HALL, 2600 FRESNO STREET, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Any interested person may appear at the public hearing and present written testimony or speak in favor or against the matters scheduled on the agenda. Public participation during Fresno City Historic Preservation Commission meetings is always encouraged and can occur by attending a meeting in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93721. When called to speak during a meeting, you may approach the speaker podium upon the Chair's call for additional public comment.**

**All public speakers will have up to 3 minutes to address the Commission pursuant to Rule No. 13 of the Historic Preservation Commission Bylaws of the City of Fresno (available in the City Clerk's Office).**

**VIEWING HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETINGS (non-participatory) – For your convenience, there are ways to view Historic Preservation Commission meetings live:**

**1. Community Media Access Collaborative website: <https://cmac.tv/>**

**2. Cable Television: Comcast Channel 96 and AT&T Channel 99**

**3. Participate Remotely via Zoom using the following link:**

**[https://fresno.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_tqMujg\\_eQtKcM0qDC4Qbvg](https://fresno.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_tqMujg_eQtKcM0qDC4Qbvg)**

**a. The above link will allow you to register in advance for remote participation in the meeting via the Zoom platform. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing additional details about joining the meeting.**

**Should any of these viewing methods listed above experience technical difficulties, the Commission meeting will continue uninterrupted. Commission meetings will only be paused to address verifiable technical difficulties for all users participating via Zoom or in the Chambers.**

**The City of Fresno's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Anyone requiring reasonable ADA accommodations, including sign language interpreters, or other reasonable accommodations such as language translation, should contact the office of the City Clerk at (559) 621-7650 or [clerk@fresno.gov](mailto:clerk@fresno.gov). To help ensure availability of these services, you are advised to make your request a minimum of 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

*Chair Sponsler called meeting to order at 6:01pm.*

*Also present were Jennifer Clark, Ashley Atkinson, & Janice Monroe*

**Present** 6 - Chair James W Sponsler, Commissioner Paul Halajian, Commissioner Julie Federico, Commissioner Elizabeth Laval, Commissioner Sarah Johnston, and Commissioner Ryan Eddings

**Absent** 1 - Vice Chair Jason Hatwig

## **II. PROCEDURES**

*6:02pm*

*Chair Sponsler read the procedures aloud.*

## **III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**

III-A [ID 25-461](#) March 24, 2025 Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

*6:03pm*

**On motion of Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Laval, that the above Action Item be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Sponsler, Commissioner Halajian, Commissioner Federico, Commissioner Laval, Commissioner Johnston and Commissioner Eddings

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Hatwig

## **IV. APPROVE AGENDA**

*6:03pm*

**On motion of Commissioner Laval, seconded by Commissioner Eddings, the AGENDA was APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Sponsler, Commissioner Halajian, Commissioner Federico, Commissioner Laval, Commissioner Johnston and Commissioner Eddings

Absent: 1 - Vice Chair Hatwig

## **V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

N/A

## **VI. CONTINUED MATTERS**

N/A

## **VII. COMMISSION ITEMS**

- VII-A** [ID 25-392](#) Review and provide comments to on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Peacock Building located at 937 F St. pursuant to FMC 12-1606(b)(5)(6).

6:04pm

*Clark noted that exhibits A, B, & C were removed from the record and not be a part of the current discussion.*

*Phil Skei presented on the proposed project, current condition of the building, and building history.*

*Laval asked about potential artifacts and while Skei said they are limited on their current access to the property that Staff agreed with the Commissions interest in preserving any found artifacts.*

*Johnston requested an updated DPR to represent the current state of the building, addressing archeological resources.*

*Halajian asked if adaptive reuse was considered but Skei said it wasn't feasible in the current condition.*

*Commissioners voiced concern that the acquisition and demolition will affect the Proposed Historic District, citing the difficulty in maintaining integrity. They were worried this will negatively affect the registering of Chinatown's District. They voiced an interest in having a building that was a good example of what was there, not a fake representation. They ended the conversation with citing the importance of a clear definition of boundaries of the Chinatown Historic District.*

**VII-B** [ID 25-513](#) Update on the plans for Historic Preservation Month

6:27pm

*Chair Sponsler reviewed the calendar and reminded everyone that the Proclamation would be held at 1:30 on 5/1 in Council Chambers. He also suggested people visit Pat Hunter's studio to view several paintings of historic properties.*

**VII-C** [ID 25-539](#) Update on the stained glass at 1115 U St (HP#220)

6:29pm

*Atkinson showed before and after photos of the amber windows and reported no damage as a result of the paint removal. She noted they have plans for future work and it will be reviewed by Historic Preservation.*

*The Commission voiced appreciation for the well done work.*

**VII-D** [ID 25-532](#) Monthly update on the Jose Garcia Brewer Adobe Building, HP #227 located at 5901 W. Shaw (APN 51004038).

6:32pm

*Atkinson reported no change in condition to the property and that Staff is working with the City Attorney's office on potential intervention.*

**VII-E** [ID 25-467](#)

Update on Regular Monthly Topics:

1. Staff Updates
2. Proposed Historic Districts
3. Architectural Review Subcommittee Updates

6:34pm

*1. Atkinson reported March statistics. She noted that a letter was sent out to all registered historic properties inviting them to participate in the economic incentive programs and included the flyer on Historic Preservation Month events. She also reported that the demolition at the BowOn Tong building was complete and additional artifacts had been found. The collection will be transferred to the Historic Society to combine with their existing collection on Chinatown. She ended with an update on the Historic Preservation Specialist open position.*

*2. Atkinson noted a conversation on the boundaries of Chinatown was to come and that Chinatown's Proposed Historic District is still a priority.*

*3. Johnston reported on the 2 properties reviewed in the last month (1844 S Cherry & 909 Fulton)*

## **VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

*6:43pm*

*Chair Sponsler asked that as Historic Preservation Month approaches people are mindful of what we have in Fresno and that there is a balance between a need for new and respect for the old.*

*Halajian added the importance of embracing adaptive reuse as a City.*

*Sponsler added that October celebrates Fresno's 140th anniversary.*

## **IX. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS**

### **IX. - A. Members of the Commission**

*6:45pm*

*Laval told a story about Rosenberg building from when the US joined World War II, pointing out that there is a storytelling element in old buildings.*

### **IX. - B. Staff**

*6:47pm*

*Clark asked that Commissioners planning on attending the Proclamation RSVP to Monroe by tomorrow.*

### **IX. - C. General Public**

*6:48pm*

*A member of the public voiced her enthusiasm for visiting Pat Hunter's Gallery during Historic Preservation Month, located at 1490 W Shaw Suite G.*

## **X. NEXT MEETING**

*5/19/2025*

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Sponsler adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.*