

City of Fresno

*City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, July 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
 - 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. 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 6:00pm.

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

Present 7 - Chair James W Sponsler, Vice Chair Jason Hatwig, Commissioner Paul Halajian, Commissioner Julie Federico, Commissioner Elizabeth Laval, Commissioner Sarah Johnston, and Commissioner Ryan Eddings

II. PROCEDURES

6:00pm

Chair Sponsler read the procedures aloud.

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

III-A [ID 25-944](#) June 23, 2025 Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

6:02pm

Monroe announced no changes to the Minutes.

On motion of Vice Chair Hatwig, seconded by Commissioner Halajian, that the above Action Item be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Sponsler, Vice Chair Hatwig, Commissioner Halajian, Commissioner Federico, Commissioner Laval, Commissioner Johnston and Commissioner Eddings

IV. APPROVE AGENDA

6:02pm

Monroe announced no changes to the Agenda.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Sponsler, Vice Chair Hatwig, Commissioner Halajian, Commissioner Federico, Commissioner Laval, Commissioner Johnston and Commissioner Eddings

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

VI. CONTINUED MATTERS

N/A

VII. COMMISSION ITEMS

VII-A [ID 25-1009](#) WORKSHOP - High Speed Rail Updates

6:03pm

Dr. Amanda Harvey, from High Speed Rail (HSR) provided a PowerPoint presentation on the updates from her organization. She talked about the Belmont Interpretive Exhibit changes in lighting from the 2020 approved design as a result of Public Works' Review. She also talked about a new Roeding Park Interpretive Exhibit. She showed the proposed location, design, and materials. She concluded her presentation on the many lanterns found in the Belmont Underpass.

The Commission requested sample information on the lighting at the Belmont Exhibit, to be reviewed by the Architectural Review Subcommittee.

They also voiced concern that Roeding Park is not a local Historic District, and requested the Sign Review Subcommittee review the exact language on the exhibit. Laval offered to assist with high resolution photos from the Pop Laval collection if needed.

The Commission discussed possible origins and uses for the 81 lanterns found.

VII-B [ID 25-912](#) Review and Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) located at APN 49407178.

6:21pm

Karin Bouler, consultant, presented a PowerPoint on the Draft Environmental Assessment results of the Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT). She provided an overview of the project, listed the findings,

summarized the 7 alternative options evaluated, discussed the Section 106 consultation and Memorandum of Agreement, explained the proposed mitigation measures, showed the milestones and timeline of the project, and concluded with next steps.

Clark explained the duties of the Commission and what falls under their purview.

The Commissioners took turns voicing their concerns regarding the demolition of the ATCT and associated loss of history. They asked Bouler and Francisco Partida (Interim Director of Aviation) about the alternatives researched and requested an option that does not require complete removal of the tower. A suggestion was made that the tower be considered for use as an aviation museum, citing possible Measure P funds as a funding source. If none of their suggestions were possible, the Commission asked that the ATCT be dismantled and either put together somewhere else, or parts used in the new design. They concluded the discussion on the importance of the tower and its cultural heritage value.

- VII-C** [ID 25-1030](#) Monthly update on the Jose Garcia Brewer Adobe Building, HP #227 located at 5901 W. Shaw (APN 51004038).

7:10pm

Atkinson reported that Staff is working on setting up a meeting with the property owner and that they were still in talks with the City Attorneys about available options. No significant change in condition was reported

- VII-D** [ID 25-1029](#)

Update on Regular Monthly Topics:

1. Staff Updates
2. Proposed Historic Districts
3. Architectural Review Subcommittee Update
4. Economic Incentive Subcommittee Update

7:11pm

1. Atkinson talked about the monthly department statistics, interviews for the new Historic Preservation Specialist, and consequences of AB130/SB131 on the Historic Preservation Commission. Clark reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming CLG reporting period coming to an end and the training requirements. She offered an online workshop by the National

Alliance of Preservation Commission, asking for requests to be emailed by 8/6 for registration purposes.

2. Atkinson noted no major updates but that Staff hoped to make progress when a new Specialist is hired soon.

3. Johnston talked about reviewing a fence and signs at the Elia Home

4. Atkinson talked about upcoming Site Visits for Mills Act applications in August.

VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

7:25pm

Chair Sponsler thanked the Commission for their dedication, highlighting the importance of advocating for the community.

IX. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

7:25pm

IX. - A. Members of the Commission

N/A

IX. - B. Staff

N/A

IX. - C. General Public

A member of the public talked about upcoming events sponsored by Heritage Fresno. She also suggested the lanterns mentioned earlier were used as historic markers, particularly in the Roeding Park area. She concluded by noting Pop Laval photos should be made available to appreciate the history.

X. NEXT MEETING

8/25/2025

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sponsler adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm