

# City of Fresno

*City Hall  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721*



## Meeting Minutes - Final

**Monday, August 25, 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 6:00pm.*

*Commissioner Eddings arrived at 6:07pm.*

*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

*6:01pm*

*Chair Sponsler read the procedures aloud.*

## III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

**III-A** [ID 25-1075](#) July 28, 2025 Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

*6:02pm*

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - 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:** 6 - Chair Sponsler, Vice Chair Hatwig, Commissioner Halajian, Commissioner Federico, Commissioner Laval and Commissioner Johnston

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Eddings

## **V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

n/a

## **VI. CONTINUED MATTERS**

n/a

## **VII. COMMISSION ITEMS**

**VII-A** [ID 25-868](#) Update on High Speed Rail project relating to the 1889 Southern Pacific Railroad Depot

6:03pm

*Commissioner Eddings arrived at 6:07pm.*

*Ben Lichty, Melisa Gaudreau, and Amy MacKinnon presented on the High Speed Rail project's renovation of the 1889 Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. They talked about the grant scope, timeline, location, scope of renovation, materials & finishes, ADA improvements, environmental review update, and the overall goals of the space.*

*Commissioners asked questions on the square footage and planned uses of space, funding timeline, public access details, proposed parking, communication with Union Pacific, and coordination with the Chinatown community. They discussed economic development in the area and Staff emphasized the benefits of private investment. The conversation ended with discussion of a possible interpretive exhibit in the future Chinatown Mobility Hub.*

**VII-B** [ID 25-557](#) Workshop on Chinatown Fresno Foundation

7:00pm

*Jan Minami, on behalf of the Chinatown Fresno Foundation, presented on Chinatown's original cultures and the history of the community broken down by time periods. Some topics included the unique diversity, legal history, Registered Historic Properties, and obstacles faced, citing case stories with various photos. She went on to talk about the Foundation's history, initiatives, and goals for the future.*

*After the presentation, the Commissioners asked about more information on the Japanese businesses after the war in the 1940s and ideal locations for adaptive reuse. They voiced the importance of working together on future projects that come before the Commission to gain additional perspectives and finding a balance between new development with preservation.*

*Cami Cipolla, also with the Foundation, asked for the Commission's help in reaching their goals for the community.*

**VII-C** [ID 25-1088](#) Monthly update on the Jose Garcia Brewer Adobe Building, HP #227 located at 5901 W. Shaw (APN 51004038).

7:45pm

*Atkinson reported on the next steps with the property owner, including a letter documenting the expectations of the City and Commission.*

*Sponsler stated he hopes to have progress reported at next meeting and offered to help if possible to prevent the situation from happening again in the future.*

**VII-D** [ID 25-1053](#)

Update on Regular Monthly Topics:

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

7:48pm

*Atkinson talked about the monthly department statistics, upcoming Mills Act site visits, and the latest progress on the newly found lanterns .*

*Sponsler reported on the recent review of the Roeding Park Interpretive Exhibit.*

**VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

7:54pm

*Sponsler notified the Commission that Staff will be revising the agenda format in the near future.*

**IX. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS**

7:55pm

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

*The Commissioners talked about recent NAPC trainings they participated in. They highlighted tax incentives/funding opportunities, different ways of tracking HPC decisions, Preservation Districts versus Historic Districts, Conservation Easements, and the importance of outreach and relationships with historic societies.*

**IX. - B. Staff**

*Clark commented on the recent NAPC training. She also confirmed that Staff will be revamping the agenda and that a subcommittee will need to be formed to aid with updating the historic ordinance. She concluded with reminding the Commission that the CLG year is ending 9/30 and the necessary training paperwork and resumes will be expected.*

**IX. - C. General Public**

*A member of the public spoke as a representative of the Meux Home providing updates, such as a recent partnership with Fresno Reel Pride, and upcoming events such as Fresno 9/11 Paranormal events and the Bygone Bazaar Market. She recommended visiting the Meux Home Museum website for details.*

*Another member of the public spoke as a representative of Heritage Fresno on upcoming events such as on 9/6 at the 509 Club and 9/11 at Sky Park. She also encouraged more research on the Belmont lanterns.*

**X. NEXT MEETING**

*9/22/2025*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Sponsler adjourned the meeting at 8:14pm*