

# City of Fresno

*City Hall  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721*



## Meeting Minutes - Final

**Monday, March 24, 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://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cAUGIBe2SYygn3isiCuy4w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cAUGIBe2SYygn3isiCuy4w)**

**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 6:00.*

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

**Present** 5 - Chair James W Sponsler, Vice Chair Jason Hatwig,  
Commissioner Paul Halajian, Commissioner Elizabeth Laval,  
and Commissioner Sarah Johnston

**Absent** 2 - Commissioner Julie Federico, and Commissioner Ryan  
Eddings

## II. PROCEDURES - PROCEDIMIENTOS - KEV SAB LAJ

*6:00pm*

*Chair Sponsler read the procedures aloud.*

## III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

III-A [ID 25-336](#) February 24, 2025 Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting  
Minutes

*6:02pm*

*Monroe reported no changes to the minutes.*

**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:** 5 - Chair Sponsler, Vice Chair Hatwig, Commissioner Halajian,  
Commissioner Laval and Commissioner Johnston

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Federico and Commissioner Eddings

## IV. APPROVE AGENDA

*6:02pm*

*Monroe reported no changes to the agenda.*

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

**Aye:** 5 - Chair Sponsler, Vice Chair Hatwig, Commissioner Halajian,  
Commissioner Laval and Commissioner Johnston

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Federico and Commissioner Eddings

## **V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

n/a

## **VI. CONTINUED MATTERS**

n/a

## **VII. COMMISSION ITEMS**

**VII-A** [ID 25-131](#) Review and discuss removal of stained glass at 1115 U St (HP#220)

6:02pm

*Atkinson provided a brief history on the situation, providing before and after photos.*

*The Commission talked about how the stained glass was not likely an original feature but added later, at an unknown time.*

*Sponsler suggested looking at HPC minutes from 1994 when the property was registered to see if the windows were discussed in great detail.*

*Halajian also suggested reaching out to the firm who did the addition in the 60s.*

*Peter Uchil (applicant) told the Commission he was unaware the property was historic at the time of purchase and that they did not keep the removed glass. He voiced concern about costs to replace the windows that were removed.*

*The Commission discussed options and decided they wanted to update the DPR to reflect the changes and did not want to remove it from the Local Registry, citing the building as the emphasis, which remained intact. They asked that Uchil remove the paint from the amber glass panes remaining on the front facade of the chapel. The Commission asked that the applicant use a professional painter to remove the paint so as to preserve the condition of the glass.*

*Atkinson acknowledged the concern of the Commission about properties*

*unaware of their Historic status and notified them that Staff would be sending out mailers, similar to last year, to all properties on the Local Register, providing them with information on the economic incentives available.*

- VII-B** [ID 25-390](#) Review and discuss items found during demolition of the Bow On Association Building/Bow On Tong Joss House, located at 934 F St.

*6:40pm*

*Atkinson made a presentation on the items found. She talked about walking the site with Hatwig & Halajian, the condition of the building/items, and the uncertainty of Staff in regards to the importance & history of each item.*

*Laval spoke about her existing Chinese exhibit and how they did not restore items, but cleaned them. She said she would talk to her team about these items and get back with Staff on how they could assist.*

*Johnston voiced her appreciated of the condition of the items from an archeological standpoint.*

*Sponsler used artificial intelligence to read the writing on items and identified names on the large item/sign.*

- VII-C** [ID 25-391](#) Monthly update on the Jose Garcia Brewer Adobe Building, HP #227 located at 5901 W. Shaw (APN 51004038).

*6:53pm*

*Atkinson made a brief presentation on the condition of the site, noting a quote was received for the City to properly tarp the site.*

*The Commission discussed with Staff what is needed to move forward. The Commission cannot ask for more, but they can elaborate on the way the conditions are met in regards to the two walls. They discussed their concern with the rapidly degrading condition. Staff explained they are working with Code Enforcement and will report back.*

- VII-D** [ID 25-329](#) Update on the plans for Historic Preservation Month

*7:11pm*

*Sponsler mentioned the list of events that are currently on the table. He*

*asked for donations to use in the Pub Quiz as prizes and asked for details on the Archeological Event by end of week.*

*Laval encouraged all Commissioners to attend the Kickoff event and asked for participation in the various events.*

**VII-E** [ID 25-360](#)

Update on Regular Monthly Topics:

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

7:18pm

1. *Atkinson went over the monthly statistics, reported a new application for the Local Register, and mentioned her plan to send out letters to all Registered Properties. She noted that in regards to the conversation last month on the G sign, neon is both legal and feasible if they were interested for this project or another in the future. She also said that funding for the Historic Preservation Specialist position is in the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and that she would report back when the position was posted.*

2. *Atkinson reported the plan to use an outside consultant for the Proposed Chinatown Historic District survey to achieve the previously set goals.*

3. *Johnston touched on the 5 projects the subcommittee reviewed in the last month.*

**VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

*n/a*

**IX. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS**

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

7:26pm

*Laval thanked Staff for stepping up in the absence of a Specialist. She also talked about the plans for the Archive on Kern, including the funding progress thus far.*

**IX. - B. Staff**

*n/a*

**IX. - C. General Public**

*n/a*

**X. NEXT MEETING**

*04/28/2025*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Sponsler adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm*