

City of Fresno

2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
www.fresno.gov



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, October 25, 2021

6:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Electronic Only

Historic Preservation Commission

Chair – Jason Hatwig, LEED, AP, BD C

Vice Chair – Robin Goldbeck

Commissioners:

Christopher Rocha, Paul Halajian, AIA; Don Simmons, PhD; C. Kristina Roper, M.A.

Staff:

Mike Sanchez, AICP, MCRP, Assistant Director; Rina Gonzales, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Alicia C. Gonzales, Historic Preservation Specialist; Janice Monroe, M.A. II

I CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Call to order at 6:03 PM

Also present were Mike Sanchez, Assistant Director; Mary Raterman-Doidge, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Alicia C. Gonzales, Historic Preservation Specialist; Janice Monroe, M.A. II.

II APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

II-A **ID 21-23611** Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes, September 27, 2021.

On motion of Vice Chair Goldbeck, seconded by Commissioner Simmons, the above item be Approved at 6:07 PM with a Roll Call vote. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hatwig, Goldbeck, Halajian, Simmons, Sponsler

Absent: Roper, Rocha

Status: 5 – 0 – Pass

III APPROVE AGENDA

On motion of Voting Member Sponsler, seconded by Vice Chair Goldbeck, the above item be Approved at 6:08 PM. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Hatwig, Goldbeck, Halajian, Simmons, Sponsler

Absent: Roper, Rocha

Status: 5 – 0 – Pass

IV CONSENT CALENDAR

V CONTINUED MATTERS

VI COMMISSION ITEMS

VI-A **ID 21-23526** UPDATE related to the status of Economic Incentive Program, Mills Act.

6:09 PM

Alicia Gonzales, Historic Preservation Specialist, informed the Commission one site visit with Commissioner Rocha occurred and that several more upcoming site visits are scheduled before bringing to the public for approval in upcoming months.

Commissioner Sponsler asked Staff if there was a time frame and Assistant Director Sanchez informed him that the goal is for the Mills Act to be complete by June 2022 and that they hope to bring in the group for easy review rather than each individual location.

VI-B ID 21-23527 WORKSHOP related to status of potential Historic Districts and Historic Surveys in order to reassess current priority District list.

6:12 PM

Gonzales provided the previously agreed upon top five priority list of proposed Historic Districts from August 26, 2019's meeting.

Commissioner Simmons asked about the age of the existing surveys and if new surveys would be needed. Gonzales explained that there would need to be an assessment to confirm if the surveys were valid.

Sanchez suggested adding an outside consultant due to staff resources, and asked Commissioners to consider adding this to next year's budget.

Commissioners asked Gonzales to provide a chart showing status, percentage of completion of the top 5 proposed districts and report back to Commission before they can judge appropriate priorities..

Simmons asked if Armenian Town should be on the list or if it stood alone and Sanchez confirmed it should stand alone and needs to go on Council's agenda for consideration. He said he would be willing to reach out again to the district's council member (Arias) to remind him it needs to be put back on the agenda.

VI-C ID 21-23528 UPDATE regarding Annual Review

6:44 PM

Gonzales explained that Staff is currently working on the Annual Reviews for 2020 & 2021. She thanked the Commissioners who have supplied an updated resume, and reminded Commissioners Roper, Hatwig, and Goldbeck that they

are still outstanding.

Chair Hatwig and Vice Chair Goldbeck said they would email the necessary documents shortly and apologized for the delay. Commissioner Roper was not present.

VI-D ID 21-23558 UPDATE regarding amendment to the Fresno Municipal Code relating to the Historic Preservation Ordinance of the City of Fresno.

6:46 PM

Sanchez made sure each Commissioner had a copy of the attached Ordinance and explained that the intent was to slow the process down when dealing with Historic properties in three ways. He explained the "At Risk" permits were no longer allowed for a Historic Property. They would have 14 days to notify residences within 2,000 feet of any action taken by the Historic Preservation Commission. Finally, appeal procedures would go directly to council.

Sanchez noted that starting at their next meeting, notices would have to go out to anyone within 2,000 feet of the property and to remember that this will take time when trying to add something to the agenda.

VI-E ID 21-23590 UPDATE from Architectural Review Subcommittee regarding the mitigation and interpretation plan for the Casa De Fortuna Building Permits No. B18-01277, B18-01278, B18-01279 & B21-01173 located at 5870 W. Santa Ana, Fresno, CA 93722, and situated near the Jose (Garcia) Brewer Adobe building located at 5901 W. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722, HP #227 (APN 510-04-038).

6:50 PM

Gonzales reported visiting the site with the architectural subcommittee (Goldbeck & Halajian) on 10/6/21, after the proposal presented by Rick Ransom at the September meeting. She showed the pictures taken from the visit and explained they requested the return of the security fence, tarped walls, and a sign, but as of the meeting date this hasn't occurred. The fence was previously up but was removed for construction work and never returned despite reminders.

The subcommittee did not recommend demolition at this time proposed two options: Artifact/shell where it wouldn't be a functional building or preserve the western facing facade as a character defining feature.

When Sponsler asked for the consensus of the subcommittee, they said that there was major wall degradation, no floor, evidence of what appears to be purposely done damage, and that the roof is the biggest problem. Halajian said that to restore the building would be quite difficult. Goldbeck also added there was major weather degradation to the carport and that the wood on the inside was in good condition but not able to care load because of size and spacing.

Halajian reported that for cohabitation restoration, the job would be an expensive undertaking and unlikely.

Sponsler asked for clarification on the hole in the wall that Halajian said was not from natural causes. Halajian explained it looked like scraping and marks that resembled forklift fork damage. Earthquake damage doesn't appear believable for this portion and the Commission showed concern for any further damage.

Goldbeck said the site plan referenced mitigation A1.1 for the building and asked Staff for clarification. She also asked Staff if Code Enforcement had visited the site. Sanchez said the first thing to be done was get the fence back and that he would speak to Code Enforcement. When discussing the mitigation language on the site plan, Sanchez said that conditions of approval is a Code Enforcement issue and that the only way to remove would be a formal request. Senior Deputy City Attorney Raterman-Doidge said the "Mitigation of Impacts" was possibly a condition of CEQA .

Staff will confirm there is not occupancy in Phase 1 plans.

Within two weeks, Staff will update on the Code Enforcement situation and research findings after confirming with City Attorney's Office on the Conditional Use Permit.

VI-F ID 21-23557 STAFF UPDATE on the removal and replacement of Citibank's Abacus, located at 4191 N Blackstone Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726 (APN 43409202).

7:34 PM

Gonzales briefly updated the Commission on the status of the missing Abacus from Citibank and informed them that the bank would have a plaque and plan for review by the November meeting.

Chair Hatwig asked if what would be installed is going to have any original

components. Gonzales stated that two beads and one rod have been located and will be repurposed, but that most was scrapped. She reported explaining to the bank that they were to reuse and restore as much as possible.

Halajian asked where the pieces were currently located, and Gonzales was unsure and that she only received pictures. Sponsler believed they are in Ontario, California.

Sponsler noted that the building was not on the registry and asked if it had been considered as an addition. Halajian explained to him it was part of the Blackstone District and part of a previous survey.

VII CHAIR PERSON'S REPORT

VIII UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

Members of the Commission

7:38 PM

Chair Hatwig announced 1651 L Street (HP#115) recently burned down, seemingly accidental. Sponsler said the owner plans to rebuild and that it would be nice if it pays tribute to the original.

Staff

None

General Public

None

IX NEXT MEETING

November, 22, 2021.

X ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hatwig adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.

2021 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

JANUARY 25, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

MARCH 22, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

APRIL 26, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

MAY 24, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

JUNE 28, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

JULY 26, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

AUGUST 23, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

NOVEMBER 22, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING

DECEMBER 27, 2021- 6:00 P.M. MEETING