

City of Fresno

*City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 23, 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 5 - Chair James W Sponsler, Vice Chair Jason Hatwig,
Commissioner Paul Halajian, Commissioner Julie Federico,
and Commissioner Sarah Johnston

Absent 2 - Commissioner Elizabeth Laval, and Commissioner Ryan
Eddings

II. PROCEDURES

6:01pm

Chair Sponsler read the procedures aloud.

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

6:02pm

III-A [ID 25-915](#) April 28, 2025 Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Minutes

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

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

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Laval and Commissioner Eddings

IV. APPROVE AGENDA

**On motion of Commissioner Halajian, seconded by Vice Chair Hatwig,
the AGENDA was APPROVED. The motion carried by the following
vote:**

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

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Laval and Commissioner Eddings

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

VI. CONTINUED MATTERS

N/A

VII. COMMISSION ITEMS

VII-A [ID 25-630](#) Consideration of Designation of the following Property to the Local Register of Historic Resources and Adoption of Findings Pursuant to FMC 12-1607 & FMC 12-1609.

- 1844 S Cherry Ave. (Assessor Parcel Number: 467-020-14)

1. RECOMMEND to City Council the designation of 1844 S Cherry Ave to the Local Register of Historic Resources

6:03pm

Wells Stanwick & Garrett Wellman were present on behalf of the applicant and available for comments and questions.

Atkinson made a presentation covering the history of the building, updated DPR Inventory sheet, character defining features, history of previous nominations, additional building (boiler house/machine shop) recommended for designation, and a brief description of the proposed project that would be discussed in the next item.

Johnston clarified that only the local nomination was on the table and not the state level or proposed district.

Stanwick (property owner representative) voiced his support of the designation, adding that plans have been updated since their original submittal and that they are interested in the Mills Act Program.

No Public Comment was provided

There was a discussion on whether to recommend a single nomination of the two buildings on the parcel or to make two separate nominations for the Local Register, to which the Commission agreed a single would be the best option.

Johnston moved to recommend to City Council the designation of 1844 S Cherry Ave due to Criteria i & iii.

On motion of Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Halajian, that the above Action Item be RECOMMENDED FOR

APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Laval and Commissioner Eddings

VII-B [ID 25-407](#) Hearing to consider application B25-03423 for façade renovations to the Rosenberg Brothers Packing Warehouse located at 1844 S Cherry Ave. (Assessor Parcel Number: 467-020-14).

1. APPROVE - Application B25-03423 for façade renovations at 1844 S Cherry Ave.

6:21pm

Atkinson presented on the general improvements proposed, character defining features of the warehouse, condition of elements like the windows, the Architectural Review Subcommittee recommendations, and Staff recommendations.

The Commission discussed with the applicant their areas on concern consisted of the window materials, matching the profile of the corrugation, and the missing Turnkey Drawings that were mentioned in the packet but not provided.

The applicant provided updated elevations and the Commission explained that if City Council approves the designation of the property they would qualify for California's Historic Building Code and some added leeway. Halajian also offered to supply the applicant resources after the meeting for historic windows.

No Public Comment was provided

Hatwig made the motion to approve the permit with the condition that the final window materials, canopy, and corrugated metal profile return to the Architectural Review Subcommittee for review.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Laval and Commissioner Eddings

- VII-C** [ID 25-875](#) Monthly update on the Jose Garcia Brewer Adobe Building, HP #227 located at 5901 W. Shaw (APN 51004038).

6:56pm

Atkinson provided updated site visit photos and reported on the condition on site. She added that Staff continues to work with the City Attorney's Office on the evidence needed for the City to take over the project. Staff plans on having a conversation with the owner to discuss the inadequate proposed plans.

Sponsler stated the situation is concreting the importance of creating a Demolition by Neglect Ordinance when this is resolved.

- VII-D** [ID 25-913](#) Update on events of Historic Preservation Month

7:00pm

Sponsler thanked those who assisted with the events in May and asked for pictures to be sent to Staff if anyone on the Commission had any. The Commission discussed the highlights and their experiences in Historic Preservation Month.

- VII-E** [ID 25-921](#)

Update on Regular Monthly Topics:

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

7:05pm

1. Atkinson provided a staffing update on the interviews and expected timeline of hiring a new Historic Preservation Specialist. She also presented the statistics of the last two months, highlighting the economic incentive applications received so far this year and letters sent out to Historic Properties.

2. Chinatown remains a priority in the upcoming fiscal year for the Department, especially upon hiring a new Specialist. Sponsler asked about the status of a bid for a consultant but Staff did not have any updates on that topic.

3. Johnston summarized the two projects reviewed in the last month (residential solar permit and commercial painting project)

VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

7:11pm

Sponsler talked about the upcoming 140th anniversary of the City in October, asking for ideas of ways they could help promote the occasion.

IX. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

7:12pm

IX. - A. Members of the Commission

N/A

IX. - B. Staff

N/A

IX. - C. General Public

A representative from the Meux Home spoke about how their property has been standing 137 of the 140 years mentioned. She stated an interest in being more involved with the 2026 Historic Preservation Month and invited the Commission to visit the property who is open for tours.

A member of the public spoke about upcoming events at the Woodward Park Library on 7/29/2025 (History of Hacienda Hotels) and 8/13/2025 (History of Chandler Field). She also noted that she believed 2028 to be the 100th anniversary of the Warnor's Theatre and the importance of calling attention to the landmark.

X. NEXT MEETING

7/28/2025

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sponsler adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm.