

City of Fresno

*City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, February 24, 2025

6:00 PM

Regular Meeting

City Hall, Room 2125

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).

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- 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

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.

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I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Sponsler called meeting to order at 6:00pm

Commissioner Halajian arrived at 6:01pm

Also present were Jennifer Clark & Janice Monroe

Present 6 - Chair James W Sponsler, Vice Chair Jason Hatwig, Commissioner Paul Halajian, Commissioner Julie Federico, Commissioner Elizabeth Laval, and Commissioner Ryan Eddings

Absent 1 - Commissioner Sarah Johnston

II. PROCEDURES - PROCEDIMIENTOS - KEV SAB LAJ

6:00pm

Chair Sponsler read the procedures aloud.

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

III-A [ID 25-189](#) January 27, 2025 Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

6:01pm

Commissioner Halajian arrived at 6:01pm

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 Eddings

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Johnston

IV. APPROVE AGENDA

6:02pm

Monroe reported no changes to the agenda

On motion of Commissioner Laval, seconded by Vice Chair Hatwig, 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 Eddings

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Johnston

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

N/A

VI. CONTINUED MATTERS

N/A

VII. COMMISSION ITEMS

VII-A [ID 25-289](#) Update regarding historic "G" Sign located at old Guarantee building (HP#167), located at 1177 Fulton Street

6:02pm

Carole Goldsmith, Christine Miktarian, & Craig Speece were present and available for questions.

Goldsmith talked about her passion for old buildings. She reported the new design would be more energy efficient and lighter.

Hatwig showed support for the LED design. He also talked about how the public should be pleased with the design.

Halajian asked if the sign would rotate, to which he was told no.

Sponsler showed support for the current design, referencing the previous designs that have come before the Commission.

Clark explained next steps to Goldsmith.

Laval expressed gratitude for the applicants' cooperation in the process and suggested a plaque for tribute on site.

VII-B [ID 25-288](#) Update on the plans for Historic Preservation Month

6:16pm

Sponsler and Laval summarized the events on the table so far and asked

the Commissioners for their contributions.

Halajian talked about a joint effort from the Warners Theater and AIA and potentially being able to move the event to May (suggested 5/8/2025). He will report back to the Commission when he has an update.

Federico suggested an archeological site event. She reported starting a conversation with Johnston and that they would provide more information soon.

Hatwig reported that he would be replicating a historic beer with a targeted release date of 5/15/2025.

Monroe asked that Commissioners send her a summary of their event so the Subcommittee can discuss and plan around their contributions.

- VII-C** [ID 25-267](#) Monthly update on the Jose Garcia Brewer Adobe Building, HP #227 located at 5901 W. Shaw (APN 51004038).

6:28pm

Clark began with a Code Enforcement update on the situation, noting that demolition and shoring plans were submitted by the property owner. While presenting these plans she expressed some concern with keeping the walls on site and the Commission agreed. They voiced interest in storing the adobe off site.

Clark said they are taking suggestions of contractors. Halajian suggested reaching out to Nick Chandler at Impact Construction.

Sponsler expressed frustration with the proposed plan of the property owner and the lack of progress over the years. He asked to revisit the lien option because he was unsatisfied with the property owner and requested progress in 90-120 days.

- VII-D** [ID 25-266](#)

UPDATE on Regular Monthly Topics:

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

6:41pm

1. Clark reported the statistics from January in Historic Preservation, noting a slightly slower pace since Lisha left. She said they would be releasing the Historic Preservation Specialist position soon and will be asking the Commission to share it. In the meantime, she reported they would be using several consultant options.

2. Clark reported Staff is seeking a consultant for the Chinatown survey update.

3. Hatwig reported on the two properties the Subcommittee discussed (HP#216 & HP#73).

4. N/A

5. N/A

VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

6:46pm

Sponsler talked about an event in Chinatown on 3/6/2025 at 846 F St. at 5:30pm.

IX. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

IX. - A. Members of the Commission

6:47pm

Federico reported meeting with Johnston to talk about a way to streamline review of archeological sites. Sponsler requested a workshop on archeological sites from the two Commissioners in the future. Laval suggested adding an article to her newsletter on archeological sites in Fresno.

IX. - B. Staff

6:50pm

Clark reminded the Commission to include Staff in Subcommittee meetings to keep minutes and make the meetings official.

IX. - C. General Public

6:51pm

A member of the public made suggestions for Historic Preservation Month including things like Pat Hunter's gallery, Warner's Theater, new G sign, & adding sandwich boards for advertising purposes.

X. NEXT MEETING

3/24/2025

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sponsler adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm