MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Thursday, October 11, 2018 • 3:00 PM
McKinley Arts and Culture Center Board Room
925 Riverside Drive, Reno, NV 89503

Commissioners:
Edan Strekal, Chairperson
ZoAnn Campana, Vice-Chair
Melinda Gustin
Emerson Marcus
Bradley Carlson
Deborah Hinman
Paul Ferrari

A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

A.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM

A.2 ROLL CALL

Members present: Chairperson Strekal, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Hinman, Commissioner Marcus, Commissioner Gustin, Commissioner Ferrari

A.3 PUBLIC COMMENT (THIS ITEM IS FOR EITHER PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ACTION ITEM OR FOR ANY GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT)

There was no public comment.

A.4 COMMISSIONERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM FOR GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS ONLY. NO DELIBERATION OR ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON THIS ITEM)

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner, had these announcements:

1. The commission’s ADU letter will be included in the planning commission’s packet.
2. Working on Harold’s Club sign.
3. Two changes recommended to the agenda

Commissioner Carlson provided an update on Reno Docomomo event in April with lectures, tours, photographic exhibits and scavenger hunt.

A.5 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (for possible action) – October 11, 2018

Chairperson Strekal noted the incorrect date on the agenda. Commissioner Hinman moved to approve the Agenda with suggested amendment. Commissioner Marcus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
A.6 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (for possible action) – Aug 9 & Sept 13, 2018

Brooklyn Oswald commented that the August meeting minutes are still being compiled but September’s were correct. Commissioner Marcus moved to approve the September 13 minutes. Chairperson Strekal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT (5 minutes)

There was no update.

C. UPDATE ON THE HISTORIC RENO PRESERVATION SOCIETY (HRPS) (5 minutes)

Commissioner Hinman gave the following updates:
1. An update of the Harvest of Homes tour. She said 640 people viewed the homes which raised close to $1500 for the Neighborhood Preservation Fund.
2. Tony Shafton speaking at the Northwest Library
3. Chairperson Strekal speaking at Reno Town Mall about Reno’s Chinatown

D. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM (10 minutes)

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said sign vendors have been contacted with quotes being received.

The Commissioners had a discussion regarding the thickness, cost, material and design of the signs.

Commissioner Gustin voiced concern about the slow process of getting these signs designed, purchased and installed.

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said he would sending a document to the Commissioners for getting approval of the sign’s design and materials.

Commissioner Carlson said the commission should know more about the materials and finish before making a decision.

Commissioner Gustin said a design standard for signs and monuments was being developed. Brooklyn Oswald said these standards were supposed to be incorporated into the Title 18 update for future reference.

Commissioner Hinman asked if the Arts and Culture Commission was involved in this process, and restated that they have funding available.

E. UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY GATEWAY HOMES (10 minutes)

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said he had recently met with University of Nevada staff who had released a request for proposal (RFP) for relocation of the homes which closed on June 6th, 2018. He said the University awarded three RFPs. Two homes went to individuals and the remaining 10 were awarded to Common Ground Urban Development.

Commissioner Ferrari asked if the 10 homes would be grouped together. Brooklyn Oswald said he believed they were but didn’t see the proposal.
Commissioner Marcus asked where the homes would be moved. Brooklyn Oswald said he believed the 10 would be moved to Gerlach with the remaining two within the Reno city limits.

Commissioner Carlson asked if the RFP required the proposals to stipulate where the homes were to be moved. Brooklyn Oswald said the RFP did stipulate trying to keep the homes together.

Commissioner Gustin said she believed the RFP did state that a location had to be identified and an agreed upon. She asked about moving the extraneous buildings near the homes. Brooklyn Oswald said there was no discussion about these buildings. Commissioner Gustin asked if the University has to submit applications for demolition since they are a state entity. Brooklyn Oswald said they don’t but they work with the city on these processes.

Commissioner Ferrari asked if Common Ground were involved with the Burning Man group to which Brooklyn Oswald answered that they were.

Commissioner Carlson said he had read an article in the Reno Gazette Journal stating that the 10 homes moving to Gerlach would be a last resort option.

Commissioner Marcus said the University hasn’t been very transparent with the process with no new information having been made available as to the final disposition of the 10 homes. Brooklyn Oswald said the University has not said specifically what Common Ground intends to do with these homes.

Commissioner Carlson said the University had the option to accept an RFP that did not fully meet the requirement of land being owned onto which the homes would be moved. Brooklyn Oswald said he did discuss this with University representatives who felt the RFP was solid and had followed through the process correctly.

Commissioner Carlson asked when the next update would be coming from the University. Brooklyn Oswald said he was scheduled to meet with the University on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Hinman mentioned a group email that discusses Common Ground’s preference for the homes to move to Evans Park, and ultimately stay in the Reno area.

Commissioner Ferrari asked if the City Council could override the Parks Commission’s decision against moving the homes to Evans Park. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said the City Council can override any commission, but deed restrictions on the Evans Park property are a hindrance. She said if the homes were moved to Evans Park, they would have to be of park use. Commissioner Gustin asked if Heidi Gansert, University of Nevada Reno Executive Director, External Relations could come to a future Commission meeting to give a status update. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said Heidi Gansert likely wouldn’t be able to provide more information that what is currently known but more details will be released in the next few months.

Commissioners Marcus and Carlson asked about inviting Common Ground to a future meeting. Brooklyn Oswald said he would reach out to their organization to see if they’d be interested.

Commissioner Ferrari said he’d be interested in the Commission querying the City Council about considering using Evans Park as a heritage park with the 10 homes. Commissioner Gustin said the City Council were not interested in going against the recommendation of the Parks and
Recreation department.

Commissioners Carlson and Ferrari discussed Common Ground going before the City Council to advocate for the use of Evans Park as the only good option for the 10 homes to remain within the Reno area.

Commissioner Gustin suggested the option of discussing with the Washoe County commissioners the possibility of relocating the 10 homes to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

F. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL USE OF CRISSIE CAUGHLIN RANCH (MAYBERRY GARDENS) (15 minutes)

Claudia Hansen, Planning manager gave a brief summary of the plan to purchase and repurpose the Mayberry Gardens property for outdoor events. Feedback from the commission was desired before the potential new owners purchase the property.

As the potentials owners did not show to the meeting, Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said he could ask the buyers for any presentation materials available to send to the commissioners for their reference.

Chairperson Strekal asked if the Certificate of Appropriateness that was granted to build offices on the property is transferable to a new owner. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said new owners can build under the approved certificate.

Commissioner Ferrari and Chairperson Strekal agreed that the ranch being owner occupied would keep the historic nature as well as ensure the upkeep of the property.

Commissioner Gustin disclosed that one of the Bath owners contacted her, and she recommended they speak with Claudia Hansen. She said an income producing business would go well towards preserving the site and house.

Commissioner Ferrari asked what actions the commission should take at this time. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said the comments from the Commissioners are helpful.

Commissioner Marcus stressed that although the commission is generally in favor of the plan, more information from the potential buyers is needed.

Commissioner Gustin asked if the previously granted Certificate of Appropriateness is nullified if a new certificate is granted to a new buyer. Claudia Hansen said she wasn’t sure if that’s the case but she would look into it.

Chairperson Strekal asked if an outdoor events venue would be permitted by the historical overlay that is on the property. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said the property is zoned open space. As the administrator, she can allow an alternate use that helps to preserve the historic aspect of the property.

G. GINSBERG CLOCK MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION FUNDING OPTIONS (10 minutes)

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner briefly reviewed the previous discussions regarding the clock. He gave the commission some suggestions for methods to secure a funding source for the
maintenance and preservation of the clock.

Commissioner Gustin said she was absent from the September meeting and requested an overview of what had been discussed. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner and Chairperson Strekal gave this overview.

Commissioner Gustin asked if any of the $50,000 stipend provided by Bill Thornton and the Cal Neva to have the clock repaired and relocated to City Plaza was still available.

Commissioner Carlson said that when the donation of the clock was made it was crated and it not installed. He said Tim Healion spearheaded getting the clock installed and has been maintaining the clock out of his own funds with no mention of the $50,000.

Chairperson Strekal said Tim Healion has established a Facebook page to follow the clock in real time as a way to encourage community engagement and interest. He asked if the commission would want to write a letter to Councilman Bobzien asking for support for the funding of the foundation.

Tess Opferman, Councilman Bobzien’s representative said she would bring the commission’s request to Councilman Bobzien.

Chairperson Strekal said there was discussion about getting the clock onto the city register as a landmark and asked what is involved in that process. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said he would check with Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to see how to move forward with that.

Chairperson Strekal said that some of the clock’s provenance is still unknown.

Commissioner Carlson said a public awareness effort for the clock would needs to be established to encourage individuals or organizations to donate to the endowment.

Commissioner Marcus said he thinks the local media would find the clock and its history interesting.

Commissioner Gustin asked if fundraising for the clock could be added to the city’s website. Brooklyn Oswald said he could look into that option. Commissioner Gustin added that there is a lot of Burning Man art in the City Plaza, and perhaps they may be interested in helping with the endowment.

Brooklyn Oswald asked Tess Opferman, Councilman Bobzien’s representative if a commissioner could give a presentation to the City Council. She answered that she would talk to Councilman Bobzien and report back to Brooklyn Oswald.

Commissioner Gustin asked if the city has a degree of responsibility when it city accepts a donation. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said the comment was made by Tim Healion that the maintenance of the clock must be done by a professional and not by someone unfamiliar with the intricacies involved. Commissioner Gustin said the city should be responsible for funding the upkeep of an accepted donation.

Commissioner Gustin said the owner and occupants of the downtown post office may want to sponsor the endowment. Brooklyn Oswald said he’s familiar with the owner of the property, and
would reach out to see if they’re interested.

Commissioner Carlson said action items regarding petitioning the City Council from the September 2018 HRC meeting be kept alive and move forward.

Tess Opferman asked for a single sheet description of the issue with photographs to send to Councilman Bobzien. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said he’d work with Tim Healion to develop this.

Commissioner Gustin said documentation and an application is needed to put it on the city register.

**H. UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY GRANT DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION (10 minutes)**

Brooklyn Oswald, Associated Planner gave an overview of the grant which was due two weeks from this meeting. He said he was looking for direction from the HRC to determine if it’s something in which to move forward.

The grant was specifically tailored to historically underrepresented groups, some of which were suggested are Women’s history, Basque, Chinatown, African American and LGBTQ. Funding would come from the National Park Service.

Commissioner Gustin said she was intrigued by the Chinatown theme because of their gardens that were adjacent to the Truckee river. She said this could lead to a display or some funding for the local train depot.

Commissioner Carlson said he knows a developer looking for property to build a Chinese cultural center or museum to honor the Chinese community and their contributions to the local area. He wondered if the grant could be used for such an endeavor.

Commissioner Gustin asked if the HRC needs to make a motion recommending the request for this funding targets research for the impact of the Chinese to the Reno community? Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said that the staff would be looking for support in putting the grant together.

Chairperson Strekal said Dr. Sue Fawn Chung from the University of Nevada Las Vegas could possibly help craft the narrative for the grant proposal to encompass other Nevada communities.

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner asked if there are volunteers that can help put together the grant proposal. Chairperson Strekal said he could assist with the historical significance portion.

Commissioner Carlson made a motion to support and move ahead with filing an application for the Chinese community and their contributions. Commissioner Marcus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Strekal opened public comments:

Sharon Honig Bear, Chair of the Reno Art & Culture Commission discussed a Burning Man art piece that was being considered for purchase by the City. Commissioner Gustin asked for more information about the artists and a photograph of the structure. Sharon Honig Bear said she
would send it for distribution to the HRC. Commissioner Carlson said to be careful with using this item as it’s not a Chinese icon.

I. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON CITY OF RENO UPDATE OF LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (TITLE 18) THE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMPONENT AND THE MASTER PLAN. Staff will present the current format and timeline for the overall Title 18 update, discuss current historical resource funding and outline future steps of implementing the Master Plan. (30 minutes)

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner gave an overview of the proposed changes to the historical resource portion of the coming Master Plan update. He said a grant was applied for that would go towards the Title 18 update.

Commissioner Gustin asked if the funding will support the staff needed for the update. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said yes and also possibly a consultant as well.

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said there was a second part of the Master Plan update that is driven more by this commission, which involves partnerships and connections that furthers cultural awareness within the community as well as a solid funding source for the HRC.

Chairperson Strekal asked if, through grants, this could be a potential funding source for things the HRC might want to undertake. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said there could be mechanisms to provide funding for the HRC, though he said Title 18 is a one time grant.

Commissioner Gustin said an ordinance to allow individuals to come in and get a demolition permit would be welcome. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said the demolition permit process is being looked at. Commissioner Gustin said earmarking funds to go towards historic preservation whenever a demolition permit is issued could be helpful.

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said the current demolition permit is being modified to require additional digital photos on older buildings for archival purposes.

J. DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME (for possible action) Chairperson

Chairperson Strekal said the commission will tentatively schedule the next meeting for November 8, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

Commissioner Ferrari made a motion to accept this date for the next meeting. Commissioner Marcus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION (for possible action) Chairperson

Commissioner Carlson asked for an update on the Mercantile building.

Commissioner Gustin asked for an update on the railroad depot roof repairs.

Chairperson Strekal suggested an update on Mayberry Gardens.
Commissioner Marcus suggested an update from On Common Ground on the University Gateway homes.

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner suggested inviting Lynne Barker with the Sustainability department to present their efforts relating to sustainability and historic preservation.

Commissioner Carlson made a motion to approve the additional agenda items. Chairperson Strekal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. PUBLIC COMMENT (THIS ITEM IS FOR EITHER PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ACTION ITEM OR FOR ANY GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT)

[INSERT NAME] voiced her frustration with the City Council.

M. ADJOURNMENT (for possible action)

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Strekal at 4:34 PM