MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Thursday, November 8, 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 3:00 PM

A.2 ROLL CALL
Members present: Chairperson Strekal, Vice-Chair Campana, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Hinman, Commissioner Marcus, Commissioner Gustin

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)
Chairperson Strekal disclosed that he and Commissioner Marcus met with Tim Healion regarding the Ginsberg clock city register application.

A.5 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (for possible action) – November 8, 2018
Commission Gustin made a motion to approve the amended agenda, moving the Ginsberg clock item later into the meeting. Vice-Chair Campana seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A.6 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (for possible action) – October 11, 2018
The October minutes were not available to approve, so this item was postponed to the next meeting.

B. CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT (5 minutes)
Councilmember Bobzien’s representative said he was out of town but would be at the next meeting.

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

Commissioner Hinman gave the following updates:
1. An update on the Historic Reno Preservation Society meeting which discussed the UNR Gateway homes. HRPS board approved funds to engage a consultant to head up a campaign to save the homes.
2. HRPS creating a brochure designating properties on the walking tours.
3. HRPS participating in Giving Tuesday and on Amazon Smile.

D. UPDATE ON THE GINSBERG CLOCK MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION FUNDING (5 minutes)

Tim Healion updated the commission on the status of the clock and the maintenance and upkeep funding. He said he was working on the application to have the clock added to the city’s historic register.

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said there is a meeting scheduled at the end of the month with Councilman Bobzien to discuss clock funding options.

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

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said he’s working with sign companies to get materials and samples. He said he’s hoping to have examples for the commission at the December meeting.

F. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION. Staff will present on achieving Multiple Goals of Preservation, Revitalizing Historic Buildings and Sustainable Design

Lynne Barker, City Sustainability Manager gave a presentation on the city’s efforts towards sustainability and how it relates to historic preservation and resources.

Vice-Chair Campana asked if the workshops offered by the sustainability office are open to the public. Lynne Barker said they are. She also said many of the workshop’s costs have been underwritten as well as continuing education credits to change the values and cultures around green building within the community.

Commissioner Marcus asked if other city’s data is available to compare to Reno’s. Lynne Barker said any city that has received a STAR certification has its data available online.

G. UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY GATEWAY HOMES (20 minutes)

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner gave a update of the Gateway homes project. He said On Common Ground Urban Development has pulled back their RFP from the 10 homes they were awarded.

Commissioner Gustin asked if a request was made to the University to attend the HRC meeting. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said there was a request sent to the University with no
response received.

Commissioner Gustin asked if a record of requests for comment and collaboration was being maintained as mandated by the City Council. Brooklyn Oswald said he would put a record together of these requests.

Vice-Chair Campana said she was disappointed with the decision made on the homes, especially after comments made by the University about how they have worked with the preservation community.

Commissioner Gustin said she feels the HRC has been disrespected by the University. She said the HRC has tried to work in partnership with the University with no reciprocation.

Commissioner Carlson referenced an email that suggests the HRC should encourage the City Council to demand the University fulfill its promises regarding historic houses of the Gateway and collaborate with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), HRC and preservation community. He asked if the commission should act on this suggestion.

Commissioner Marcus suggested that perhaps the HRC should submit an Op-Ed to the Reno Gazette Journal. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner asked Greg Salter, Deputy City Attorney to weigh in on the legality of this. Greg Salter said the HRC is authorized to write a letter but asked what the letter would say. Commissioner Marcus said the HRC would have to come up with something concise and agreeable to the whole HRC and meets the maximum word requirements for Op-Eds. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said it should be looked at further to determine if it’s appropriate for the HRC to submit a letter to the paper.

Commissioner Gustin asked Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager what communications her department has had with the University. Claudia Hansen said there have been discussions with the University looking at how to coordinate sewer caps for the homes on Lake Street.

Commissioner Gustin asked if the city is working on sewer connections for these homes, does that imply a quasi-approval of the Gateway homes process to move forward. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said only discussions are ongoing, with no demolition applications having been received.

Commissioner Gustin asked if it was appropriate for the HRC to ask the City Council for guidance on what options are available. She asked if there are ways to offer alternatives now that On Common Ground has pulled out of the process. Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said news reports claim the University would not be reopening the RFP process. Claudia Hansen, Planning Manager said they would be speaking with Councilman Bobzien about communication options. Commissioner Gustin asked if Washoe County could be brought in as a partner or interested party. Claudia Hansen said they would brainstorm ideas to see if other options could be found.

Chairperson Strekal said he had just received an email that the University President Marc Johnson and University Executive Director, External Relations Heidi Gansert want to meet with himself and HRC Vice-Chair Campana to talk about the Gateway homes.

Chairperson Strekal opened the floor for public comments.

Barrie Lynn, former HRC commissioner commented on the Gateway homes project.
H. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION MERCANTILE BUILDING DEMOLITION (20 minutes)

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner gave an update on the demolition process of the Mercantile building. He said he has reached out to Garrett Gordon, the applicant’s representative to ask if the applicant would consider doing a Historical American Buildings Survey (HABS.) He said the applicant is interested but needs direction on the process and cost.

Commissioner Hinman asked about HABS and Vice-Chair Campana gave an overview of the program.

Brooklyn Oswald, Associate Planner said the applicant is planning on being before the HRC next year to present their proposal for the building site.

Chairperson Hinman asked when the demolition was scheduled. Brooklyn Oswald said no demolition is currently scheduled with the permit on hold.

I. 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 December 13, 2018 at 2:30 PM.

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

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

Vice-Chair Campana suggested the University Gateway homes for possible action.

Commissioner Marcus suggested an update on the Ginsberg Clock application for the city register.

Chairperson Strekal asked for samples for the Historic Marker program.

Commissioner Carlson asked about an update on the train depot roof. Brooklyn Oswald said there will be an update at the December meeting.

Commissioner Carlson suggested a update of the Reno DoCoMoMo event.

Vice-Chair Campana made a motion to approve the additional agenda items. Chairperson Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There were no public comments.
L. ADJOURNMENT (for possible action)

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Strekal at 4:28 PM