

Historic Preservation Board Regular Meeting

Minutes – November 4, 2014

Present: David Bailey, Jon Schler, Scott Wolford and Michael Menard

Not Present: Jody Motz, Jodi Coleman-Niernberg, Chris Endreson and Kevin Reimer

Also Present: Kristen Ashbeck, City Community Development; Bennett Boeschstein, City Council; and Harry Weiss, Downtown Development Authority

Minutes of October 7, 2014 Meeting. Jon Schler made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2014 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously (4-0) on a second by Michael Menard.

Historic Building Marker Program. Guests Bennett Boeschstein, City Council and Harry Weiss, Downtown Development Authority discussed ideas that the Board had discussed in October with the Legends Committee regarding a historic marker plan. Bennett provided information about simple bronze cast markers that he recommends that include the name, date and City, State or Local register information on them. He estimated that the City could offer half of the cost of the marker if matched by a property owner.

Harry Weiss summarized the background of the Legends Committee and where they are with their current sculpture project. The Committee is in the process of deciding it's future role in other projects such as a historic marker program. One project they would continue to work on is a catalog of the Art on the Corner works that currently exist. Harry stated that the current DDA does not fully endorse the wayfinding plan that was developed several years ago so it is not necessary that any markers placed on buildings in the downtown area conform with that plan. Harry will follow up with discussion of this with the Legends Committee at a future meeting.

David Bailey summarized the role and tasks of the Board to move forward on a program: use the program to re-energize historic preservation in the community, develop a prototype marker, define the cost per marker, create an application process, contact owners with designated or potentially historic properties to solicit interest in the marker program. David stated he would follow up with All Metals to develop a possible marker prototype.

Jon Schler suggested that the Board could help gather information to help interpret the legends sculptures as well as historic structures. Information could be provided in an easily accessible format such as through QR codes. The first phase of a sign program should focus on the downtown structures that are designated in the National, State or local register of historic structures. There could be an opportunity to write a grant to the State Historical Fund to encompass both developing the marker program as well as the research for interpretation of the buildings and legends sculptures. Grant applications for under \$35,000 are less competitive than the larger grants. Tracie Weiland of the City Parks and Recreation Department may be working on a grant application to the State Historical Fund for the historical signage at Las Colonias Park. The Board also discussed how the data gathered could also be used to develop history packets for District 51 Schools.

Other. A subcommittee of the Board toured the alleys of the 7th Street District to inventory accessory structures on Tuesday, November 5th at 1:30 pm, just prior to the Board's regular meeting. More to come regarding the outcome of the inventory.

The Board would like to visit George Crawford's restored tomb for its December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.