City of Richmond

Where History Meets Opportunity

Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

600 Morton Street
City Commission Room
Richmond, Texas 77469
Tuesday, August 16, 2016, at 8:00 A.M.

RICHMOND HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

The Richmond Historical Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas, met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. Cindy Drabek, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Ann Council
Cindy Drabek
Becky Haas
Lonnie Meadows
Claire Rogers (non-voting)
Jess Stuart (non-voting)

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek declared the meeting open.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item number A2., public comment. She asked if there were any public comments. Hearing no public comment the agenda item was closed.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item B1., review and approve minutes from July 19, 2016. The motion was presented by Commissioner Meadows and seconded by Commissioner Rogers for approval. The vote was three "ayes" and no "nays" for approval.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C1., Economic Development Update from Executive Director, Mr. Rob Tobias. Mr. Tobias stated that there is interest in development of 300 Morton Street 2nd story; the Italian Maid Restaurant is used for

catering; more restaurants are showing interest in the Historic District; Cornerstone Ministries is relocating; WFBMD is sponsoring the Pecan Festival on November 20th; and December 3rd is Miracle on Morton Street. Commissioner Rogers had a question if Economic Development can help with more restaurants moving into the Historic District. Mr. Tobias answered yes. Commissioner Meadows asked if there was any interest in the old fire station. Mr. Tobias stated he was waiting on direction from the City Commission. He also stated the site has parking issues and possible environmental and structural issues.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C2a., Historic District Properties, Non-Compliance. Commissioner Becky Haas stated she would like to use this agenda item to focus on preservation. She stated that economic development money should be used to preserve buildings and historic homes. Commissioner Rogers stated that the Fort Bend Museum is working with a group called Maker Space to possibly redevelop Decker Park. Commissioner Haas stated she will personally look into preserving the cistern located on the Sunset Saloon property.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C2b., Downtown Richmond. Commissioner Becky Haas reported there are lots of local customers coming to downtown Richmond. She anticipates more out of town customers in the fall.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C2c., Community and Museum Events. Commissioner Claire Rogers reported that the Fort Bend Archeological Society will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Gus George Academy on August 16th; the Fort Bend County Historical Commission will meet at 3:00 p.m. at the Gus George Academy on August 16th; Pecan Festival meeting at 11:30 a.m. Richmond PD on August 17th; Historic Richmond Association Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Richmond PD on August 17th; Mayor Moore will be speaking at Del Webb for the Chamber for Young Professionals Meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on August 18th; Historic Richmond Association hosting Music in the Park at Wessendorff Park from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on August 19th; Opening of a new exhibit at Fort Bend Museum called Progressive and Prosperous Edwardian Period on September 2nd; Fort Bend Museum Lecture Series from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on September 2nd; Playing in the Past on September 17th; Bites and Brews on October 1st; Visit Houston Tourism Summit on September 7th; and Chamber Breakfast on September 6th.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C3a., Historic Preservation Officer's report on the Wayfinding Sign Program update, Ms. Jessica Duet.
Ms. Duet stated that she working with the City Attorney to sign the contract with National Sign Plazas. Ms. Duet reiterated she will bring updates about the wayfinding sign program to the Commission as it progresses.
Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C3b., review and approve demolition permit for 212 Preston Street. Ms. Duet explained that a permit had been filed for demolition of the structure located at 212 Preston Street. The structure had taken over

two-feet of water during the May 2016 Brazos River Flooding. The property owner wished to demolish the building. The building was not historic in nature according to the historic building database provided by the UTSA study. The Commission asked if the building was historic. Ms. Duet stated she could not find evidence the building was historic and it is not listed on the UTSA archive of historic structures. The Commission asked if there were historic items inside the structure. Ms. Duet indicated she did not know, nor did she ask the property owner. The Commission asked if the structure was a historic Landmark. Ms. Duet responded no. The Commission voted three "ayes" and no "nays" for approval.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C4., discussion of Texas Local Government Code Chapter 171, Mr. Gary Smith. Mr. Smith explained the opinion of Beaumont Attorney General. He explained that the best rule of law that if you do have a conflict of interest is to file an affidavit with the City Attorney and refrain from voting. He also stated that the Commissioner should leave the room. Conflicts of interest can also involve family interests.

There being no further business to be brought before the Richmond Historical Commission, Commissioner Meadows motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Commissioner Haas seconded and the Commission adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Approved:

Cindy Drabek

Cindy Drabek, Richmond Historic Commission Chair