



City of Richmond

Where History Meets Opportunity

Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

600 Morton Street City

Commission Room

Richmond, Texas 77469

Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 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 21, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. Cindy Drabek, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Karen Bleil
Cindy Drabek
Becky Haas
Lonnie Meadows
Claire Rogers
Jess Stuart

Commission member Ann Council was not present.

Staff in attendance: Terri Vela, City Manager; Gary Smith, City Attorney; Lori Bownds, Building Official; Jose Abraham, Planner II, and Jordan Adams, GIS Specialist.

Chairperson Cindy Drabek declared the meeting open.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item number A2., public comment. She asked if there were any public comments. Robert Haas, 716 Magnolia Lane, Richmond, addressed the Commission on item C2b, demolition of the structure located at 211 Calhoun Street. He expressed concern that no plan for the use of the property had been presented. His experience is that initial activity without a plan for development/redevelopment often creates problems that are difficult to resolve. Frank Mazza, M.D., 208 Morton Street, Richmond, also spoke on item C2b, expressing that removal of the building will leave the courtyard open without security to prevent unauthorized persons from entering. He stated that graffiti has been a problem in the courtyard area.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item B1. and B2., review and approve minutes from June 19, 2018, and announce the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting on September 18, 2018. Commissioner Rogers moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Meadows seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1a., Downtown Richmond Updates. Commissioner Haas reported on the following updates:

1. Vacant buildings hurt activity.
2. Business has been slow.
3. The Boutique Crawl was slow.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1b., Community and Museum Events, and Commissioner Rogers reported on the following activities:

1. A traveling exhibit, funded by a grant from the Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation will be unveiled and travel to locations throughout the county.
2. The Historic Commission will meet at 3 p.m., August 21, at the Gus George Center.
3. The Archeological Society will meet at 7 p.m., August 21, at the Gus George Center.
4. A Docent Meeting will be held on September 8.
5. Planning for Miracle on Morton Street and the Pecan Festival are underway.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2a., discussion and action on a Certificate of Appropriateness for front façade repairs and painting the structure at 309 Morton Street. Gary Smith reviewed the report from Ms. Jessica Duet, Historic Preservation Officer, detailing the history of the structure and the requested improvements, including the use of the same paint colors presently on the front façade, without changing the American flag. In discussion, no objection was stated for the replacement of the wooden panels on the front of the building, but concern was expressed over the continued use of Sherwin Williams 7732 "Lemon Grass" and 6426 "Tansy Green" because these colors are not included in the recently adopted color palette for the Historic District. Chairperson Drabek stated the question: consider a Certificate of Appropriateness for front façade repairs and painting the structure at 309 Morton Street. Commissioner Meadows seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for disapproval. The Chairperson asked that Mr. Rodriguez be informed of the Commission's decision and that the Commission's request that he use colors from the approved color palette.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2b., discussion and action on a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the structure located at 211 Calhoun Street. Gary Smith reviewed the report from Ms. Jessica Duet, Historic Preservation Officer, detailing the history of the structure and the conditions required to be met for Commission approval of a demolition request: (1) the subject property is not a recognized landmark; (2) the subject building, structure, or object is not an accessory building and/or landscape feature that is integral to the historic interpretation or integrity of the landmark; (3) the applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for Demolition of a landmark on the basis of economic hardship; and (4) the subject building, structure, or object has lost its architectural significance and integrity over time for reasons not entirely within the control of the current

or previous property owners(s), noting that the building at 211 Calhoun Street is compliant with three of the four criteria. Commissioner Meadows inquired how the property would be used if the building is demolished. City Manager Vela responded that it would be used as a loading dock and to provide access to the rear of the owner's building facing Morton Street. The Commission expressed the concerns expressed by Mr. Haas and Dr. Mazza. Commissioner Haas moved tentative approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness, contingent upon the owner attending the next meeting and reporting to the Commission the plans for development/redevelopment of the property. Commissioner Bleil seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C3., discussion of the "Old Theater" property. Because of the resolution of item C2b, Commissioner Haas moved to postpone the item until the next Historical Commission meeting. Commissioner Bleil seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be brought before the Richmond Historical Commission, Chairwoman Drabek adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Approved:



Cindy Drabek, Richmond Historical Commission Chair