



City of Richmond

Where History Meets Opportunity

Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

City Commission Room | 600 Morton Street, Richmond, Texas 77469

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 8:00 am.

The Richmond Historical Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. Cindy Drabek, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Cindy Drabek
Carol Edwards
Karen Bleil
Jess Stuart

Staff in attendance: Jose Abraham, *Historic Preservation Officer (HPO)*; Mason Garcia, *Associate Planner*; Howard Christian, *Assistant City Manager*; Jamie Walker, *Public Works Executive Secretary*; Jordan Adams, *GIS Specialist*; Gary Smith, *City Attorney*; Cameron Goodman, *Executive Director, Development Corporation of Richmond*.

Chairperson Cindy Drabek declared the meeting open.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item number A2., Public comments. She asked if there were any public comments for items not included on the agenda. Hearing no public comment, the agenda item was closed.

Chairperson Drabek introduced consent agenda items B1. - Review and approve minutes from August 20, 2019 regular meeting; and B2. - Announce the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting to be held on October 15, 2019. Commission member Edwards moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commission member Bleil seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1a., Downtown Richmond Updates. No updates were provided.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1b., Community and Museum Events Updates. No updates were provided.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2a., Certificate of Appropriateness for sign application for *Lone Star Legal Aid*, located at 212 S 2nd Street.

Mr. Abraham, Historic Preservation Officer, indicated that agenda item C2a. pertained to a sign application for *Lone Star Legal Aid*, located at 212 S 2nd Street. He added that the property owner requested more time to properly complete the application. Therefore, Mr. Abraham requested that the item be revisited at the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2b., Update on 300 Morton Street Project (Old Exchange Hotel) by Cameron Goodman, Executive Director, Development Corporation of Richmond. Mr. Goodman explained that the building has been purchased by a Cyber Security Company, which provides third-party web security consulting services for multiple local and state government agencies. He stated that the new owner of the building will be making necessary repairs to the building and intends to maintain the historic appearance of the building. Mr. Goodman also clarified that the upper floor shall be used as offices and the first floor is planned to continue as retail spaces.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2c., Historic Demolition by Neglect update. Mr. Abraham explained that since the last update, letters had been sent out to all property owners. Additionally, Staff had met with the property owners of 209 Calhoun Street. However, Mr. Abraham noted that the property is not under single ownership; and that staff is trying to find more details about the property's ownership. Nonetheless, Mr. Abraham, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Campbell, Building Inspector were able to meet with some of the owners and inspect the property. He added that Staff found that the building was structurally sound and is not in any immediate risk of collapse. Furthermore, Mr. Abraham indicated that Staff had discussed several options with the property owners for potential use for the building that would fit the character of Historic Downtown. Additionally, Mr. Goodman had provided the owners of the property with available resources through the City of Richmond, which were received positively.

Mr. Abraham continued, and provided a status regarding the Old Theater building located at 206 Morton Street. Since the last update, Mr. Abraham had met with Ms. Hentschel—the property owner, and updated her on the conditionally approved temporary driveway permit and other additional documentation. According to Mr. Abraham, Ms. Hentschel indicated that once she was able to fulfill the necessary conditions of the permit, she would install the temporary driveway and work on the façade improvement. Additionally, Mr. Abraham mentioned that he and Mr. Goodman had the opportunity to tour the inside of the Old Theater building, and noted that the space had promising development potential. He expressed that Staff would continue to keep in touch with Ms. Hentschel for status updates.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C4., Consider agenda items requests by Commission Members for October 15, 2019, regular meeting. Chairperson Drabek requested the addition of an item officially welcoming Chairperson Mary Jane Kocurek to the Richmond Historical Commission. Additionally, Chairperson Drabek suggested that general updates within the historical district may be provided as a general staff update agenda item. Furthermore, Mr. Abraham requested to include an update on newly adopted building codes, to be presented by Ms. Lori Bownds, Building Official, for the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting.

There being no further business to be brought before the Richmond Historical Commission, Chairperson Drabek adjourned the meeting.

Approved

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy Drabek", written over a horizontal line.

Cindy Drabek, Richmond Historical Commission Chair