



City of Richmond

Where History Meets Opportunity

Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 8:00 am.

The Richmond Historical Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 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
Lonnie Meadows

Staff in attendance: Jose Abraham, *Historic Preservation Officer (HPO)*; Mason Garcia, *Associate Planner*; Jamie Walker, *Public Works Executive Secretary*; Jordan Adams, *GIS Specialist*; Gary Smith, *City Attorney*; Lori Bownds, *Building Official*.

Chairperson Cindy Drabek declared the meeting open.

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

Chairperson Drabek introduced consent agenda items B1. - Review and approve minutes from September 17, 2019 regular meeting; and B2. - Announce the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting to be held on November 19, 2019. Commission member Edwards inquired about discussion regarding the *Lonestar Legal Aid* during the last meeting. Chairperson Drabek stated this information is located on the last paragraph on the first page of the minutes. Commission member Bleil moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commission member Edwards seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1a., Community and Museum Events Update. No updates were provided.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2a., Building Department Update – Adoption of 2015 International Building and Fire Codes. Lori Bownds, *Building Official*, indicated that staff has been working on 2015 International code adoption for the last year and a half and that it was adopted by the City Commission in July 2019. She explained that the City Commission adopted the following new codes: building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, energy

conservation, swimming pool & spa, fuel gas code, existing building code, and the residential code. Ms. Bownds stated that most of the changes were in the Fire code. She also mentioned that the newly adopted 2015 codes additionally address rooftop gardens & bars and regulations related to restaurants and commercial kitchens. According to her most projects in the Historic District would fall under the existing building code, unless it is brand new construction. In response to Commission member Edwards question about bringing existing buildings to code compliance, Ms. Bownds indicated that existing buildings can continue as built and compliance to current codes is required when a remodeling exceeds 50% of the value of the building. Ms. Bownds indicated that codes will be effective as of January 1, 2020, and that staff will be sending out notification to contractors, residents, and business owners. Chairperson Drabek asked if the information was currently on the City of Richmond Website, to which, Ms. Bownds indicated that staff is working towards updating the website to reflect the recently adopted codes.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2b. Certificate of appropriateness for a sign application for *Lone Star Legal Aid* located at 212 S 2nd Street. Mr. Jose Abraham, HPO, indicated that application was discussed at the last meeting and since then the applicant has provided accurate drawings and all required information. Mr. Abraham indicated that the proposed sign complies with all requirements of the UDC and Historic District design guidelines and recommended approval of the proposed certificate of appropriateness. Commission member Edwards moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign application for the *Lone Star Legal Aid* located at 212 S 2nd Street. Commission member Meadows seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2c., Certificate of appropriateness for a sign application for *Richard L Tate Attorney* located at 206 S 2nd Street. Mr. Jose Abraham, HPO, explained that the proposed sign will replace a similar sign that is larger than the proposed sign. He indicated that the proposed sign complies with all requirements of the UDC and Historic District design guidelines and recommended approval of the proposed certificate of appropriateness. Commission member Meadows moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign application for *Richard L Tate Attorney* located at 206 S 2nd Street. Commission member Edwards seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C3., Consider agenda item requests by Commission Members for November 19, 2019, regular meeting. Chairperson Drabek asked Commission members if there were any requests for agenda items for the next Commission Meeting. Commission member Edwards asked if updates on the Demolition by neglect be provided every month, and if there were any updates for this month. Mr. Jose Abraham, HPO, stated that monthly updates, if any, will be provided at the regular meetings and that no significant update was available for the month of October.

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 that reads "Cindy Drabek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Cindy Drabek, Richmond Historical Commission Chair