



# City of Richmond

*Where History Meets Opportunity*

## Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

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

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 8:00 am.**

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The Richmond Historical Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 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  
Karen Bleil  
Carol Edwards  
Lonnie Meadows  
Clair Rogers

Staff in attendance: Jose Abraham, *Historic Preservation Officer (HPO)*; Mason Garcia, *Associate Planner*; Gary Smith, *City Attorney*; Lori Bownds, *Building Official*; Howard Christian, *Assistant City Manager*.

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 15, 2020 regular meeting; and B2. - Announce the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting to be held on December 15, 2020. Commission member Edwards moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commission member Bleil seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Agenda item C1a., Community and Museum Events Update was considered after Agenda item C2.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2., Staff Update on development related activities within Historic District. Jose Abraham, Historic Preservation Officer (HPO), discussed the Old Theater building and indicated that a Certificate of Appropriateness was issued recently for exterior façade improvement. According to Mr. Abraham, the exterior limestone work on the first floor is complete and the next phase will be the windows and the entrance door; followed by preparing and fixing the stucco on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. He concluded by mentioning that the property owner is trying to work with CenterPoint Energy to get permission to start the stucco work due to the proximity of the powerlines to the building and that staff hopes that there is some progress

to report at the next meeting. Commission members expressed their appreciation for the façade improvement. Moving on to the next update item, Mr. Abraham indicated that staff met with the property owners of the Old Sunset Salon located at 603 Calhoun St to discuss a proposed meadery. He explained that the discussion was preliminary in nature and the owner intends to add a building for the meadery operations and use the existing building as their tasting room.

Mr. Smith, City Attorney informed the Commission that a package from the US Army Corps of Engineers which discussed the replacement of the railroad bridge was received. He briefly discussed the significance of the bridge and indicated that the Union Pacific Railroad is in discussion with several entities about the proposed replacement of the bridge. Commission member Rogers cited that the reasoning for the proposed replacement is that the structural stability of the existing bridge has deteriorated over time due to erosion. Mr. Smith and Commission members generally discussed other details of the project and Mr. Smith indicated that City's preference would be that the replacement reflect the appearance of the existing bridge. Mr. Smith also provided an update that the City Commission has approved the relocation of the Jaybird Monument which is in proximity to the City Hall to Hodges Bend Cemetery. The approval is subject to Fort Bend County Commissioners Court approving an inter-local agreement to fund the relocation. Mr. Smith and Commission member Rogers responded to questions from Commission member Meadows by providing more details about the proposed relocation.

Mr. Abraham continued his discussion about 603 Calhoun St by showing the location of the old sunset salon building and concluded the update by elaborating the concept for the proposed meadery. Continuing the staff update, Mr. Abraham mentioned that staff has had some discussions with the property owner of 102 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St about using the existing building as barbeque restaurant with off-site cooking. In conclusion, Commissioner Meadows inquired about the old Fire Station building to which Mr. Christian, Assistant city Manager, explained that the project is in the bidding stage and that the improvements include painting the building, new metal roof, new storefront, and garage doors. He also added that the improvements would allow better opportunities in terms of attracting a business for the building.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1a., Community and Museum Events Update. Commission member Rogers provided the following updates:

- Progress on the funding, permitting, and construction of the Fort Bend Museum building;
- Proposed use of the McNabb house for an architect's office;
- Ghost Tours at Moore Home – Friday, every half hour in October;
- Historic District Ghost Tours – Saturday Nights;
- Live Ghost Hunt with Cypress Paranormal Group – October 31, 2020;
- George Ranch Family Fun Day – October 31, 2020; 11:00 am to 3:00 pm;
- Early Voting locations in Richmond, TX;
- Movie at Wessendorf Park, Addams Family – 6:45 pm, Friday, October 30, 2020;
- Pink Out day in Richmond - Thursday, October 22, 2020;
- City of Richmond Shred Day – 9:00 am to Noon, Saturday, October 24, 2020.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C3., Consider agenda item requests by Commission Members for November 17, 2020. No requests or suggestions were provided. Commission member Meadows expressed his appreciation for the convenience at the early voting location at the Water department building.

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

Approved



Richmond Historical Commission Chair