



City of Richmond

Where History Meets Opportunity

Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

City Commission Room (In-Person and Zoom)

600 Morton Street, Richmond, Texas 77469

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

The Richmond Historical Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. Chairperson Edwards called the meeting to order. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Carol Edwards - Chair
Jackie Atkinson – Vice-Chair
Payton McGee
Lonnie Meadows
Gary Gillen
David Smith
Madeleine Calcote-Garcia

Staff in attendance: Mason Garcia, Historic Preservation Officer (HPO); Helen Landaverde, Planner II; Terri Vela, City Manager; Gary Smith, City Attorney; and Brittany Mullings, Public Works Executive Secretary.

Chairperson Edwards declared the meeting open.

Chairperson Edwards introduced agenda item number A2., Recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and Texas Flag. Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and Texas Flag was recited.

Chairperson Edwards introduced agenda item number A4., Public comments. Hearing no public comments. The agenda item was closed.

Chairperson Edwards introduced consent agenda items B1-B2. B1. Review and approve minutes from May 16, 2023, regular meeting. B2. Announce the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting to be held on August 15, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. Commission Member Gillian moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Meadows. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Edwards introduced regular agenda item C1a., Community and Museum Events Update.

- Summer History at the Fort Bend Museum, Tuesday, and Saturdays in July (excluding the 4th of July), 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., \$5 each. The theme is Architecture and Builders.
- The Fort Bend Museum will be starting up their 3rd Saturday Activities in August from 10:00

a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Edwards introduced regular agenda item C2., Staff reports:

- C2a. Administratively approved Certificate of Appropriateness for window repairs and exterior repaint at located 315 (317) Morton St. Mr. Garcia, HPO, stated the applicant repaired and repainted the rear windows and repainted portions of the façades of the building along Morton Street and South 4th Street. The project was administratively approved. All Commission Members were in favor.
- C2b. Staff Report on the removal of the Richmond Train Depot located at 707 Calhoun St. Commission Member Calcote-Garcia abstained from participation in the discussion due to conflict of interest. Robert Haas at 1716 Magnola Lane, explained he has worked or volunteered for the City of Richmond since 1971 and for a time he was the Historical Preservation Officer for the Historical Commission. He explained why he opposes the relocation of the Richmond Train Depot or any more of our historical buildings. Over the last 40 years, Fort Bend County as pretty much decimated quite a few of our historical buildings. He acknowledged that the Museum has tried valiantly to preserve some of the buildings in Richmond and understands financing could be an issue. He mentioned the Train Depot has been in the City of Richmond for well over 100 years. He urged the Commission to take action and not approve the certificate of appropriateness. Commission Member Meadows asked if Mr. Haas had a proposal for funding. Mr. Haas stated we haven't been given a chance to look into possible funding. He is hoping with more time, we can find funding. Commission Member Gillen asked if Mr. Haas was aware of any negotiation of the Rosenberg Railroad Museum to improve this property and use it on site instead of moving the structure to perhaps develop Decker Park instead. Mr. Haas was not aware of any negotiations. Terri Vela, City Manager, stated she spoke to Rainey Webster with the Rosenberg Railroad Museum, she mentioned it would take additional resources that they currently do not have to keep the structure on site. Ms. Vela, Commission Member Gillen, and Commission Member Meadows briefly discussed different funding options. Commission Member Gillen and Mr. Haas expressed their admiration for the Fort Bend County Museum. Commission Member Gillen explained he was involved in the creation of the Rosenberg Railroad Museum. He could see the potential benefit to having another railroad museum in Richmond. Commission Member McGee asked if we were to lose the Richmond Train Depot, what will happen afterwards. Ms. Vela explained that Decker Park is owned by the Fort Bend County Museum. The City would like to have a discussion or presentation with the Museum regarding the future plans of Decker Park.
- C2c. Staff Update regarding discussion possible expansion of the Historic Overlay District. Mr. Garcia, HPO, explained that House Bill 2436 affects building in designated historical areas. The 2001 adopted Design Guidelines for buildings in the Richmond Historic District will not be applicable to the properties added into the future expansion. The City cannot require newly acquired property in the expansion to have specific historical architectural features and/or building materials. Commission Member Gillen asked if City Staff do further research into House Bill 2439 to have a better understanding of the Bill.

Chairperson Edwards introduced regular agenda item C3., Consider agenda item request by Commission Members for August 15, 2023, regular meeting. None was discussed.

Chairperson Edwards introduced regular agenda item C4., Excuse from attendance at regular Richmond Historical Commission Meeting. Commission Member Gillen made a motion to approve Commission Member Stuart absence due to a conflicting schedule. Commission Member Atkinson seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

There being no further business to be brought before the Richmond Historical Commission, Chairperson Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Approved



Carol Edwards, Chair
Richmond Historical Commission