



City of Richmond

Where History Meets Opportunity

Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

600 Morton Street

City Commission Room

Richmond, Texas 77469

Tuesday, February 20, 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, February 20, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. Cindy Drabek, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Karen Bleil
Cindy Drabek
Lonnie Meadows
Claire Rogers
Jess Stuart

Staff in attendance: Jessica Duet, Planning Director/Historic Preservation Officer; 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. Hearing no public comment the agenda item was closed.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item B1. and B2., review and approve minutes from December 19, 2017, and announce the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting on March 20, 2018. Commissioner Meadows motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bleil seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1a., Downtown Richmond Updates. Commissioner Haas was not present at the meeting so Commissioner Stuart read the report. Commissioner Stuart reported on the following updates:

1. The months of January and February 2018 have been slow in downtown Richmond but this is usual.
2. The Rustic Closet will celebrate its one year anniversary on February 23, 2018.
3. Jay-Wood Trading has signed a new one year lease.
4. The electrical lines have been moved in preparation for the new awning located at the Old Hotel site.
5. The Historical Richmond Association (HRA) is discussing and planning the Motor Madness and Art Walk which will be held on May 2, 2018, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1b., Community and Museum Events. Commissioner Rogers was not in attendance yet so the item was moved after agenda item C2.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2a., discussion and action on expanding the Historic District boundaries north to Clay Street and North 2nd Street. Ms. Jessica Duet, Historic Preservation Officer, explained the proposed historic district boundary expansion north to Clay Street and east to North 2nd Street. She explained there is one property located at 402 North 2nd Street which has a Texas Historical Marker. There is a home located on the east side of North 2nd Street with the intersection with Clay Street that may or may not have historical value. The home is not identified as a resource in the City's historical resources database. Ms. Duet stated it is a mixture of single-family homes on east side North 2nd Street and there is a manufactured home park and manufactured homes scattered between North 4th Street bounded between Clay Street (north) and Jane Lone Street (south). The Commission asked what timeline was expected for a recommendation for the historic district expansion. Ms. Duet stated she would ask City administration and report back to the RHC. The Commission also inquired if the property owner had been notified at 402 North 2nd Street about impending inclusion into the historic district boundaries. Ms. Duet stated she had not notified the property owner. She also stated she would ask if anyone else with City staff had notified the property owner prior and report back to the RHC. The Richmond Historical Commission requested to move this agenda item to the next regularly scheduled meeting for further discussion.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2b., discussion on proposed Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Policy. Ms. Jessica Duet gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission. The presentation explained two approaches cities give tax exemptions to historic properties. These cities were examples from Texas. Ms. Duet explained, one approach is a tax exemption for the property owner to renovate their property and the city will grant tax exemption upon the property owner providing proof via renovation

receipts. The second approach is the property owner requesting the tax exemption and the money is used for historic maintenance on the property. It is generally a yearly renewal where the property owner proves maintenance based on certain criteria the city will inspect. The tax exemption varies by city but never applied as 100% exemption of city taxes. Ms. Duet further explained cities apply tax exemptions to historic properties, landmarks, historic districts, or all of the above. The Commission asked what timeline is expected to make a recommendation to the City Commission for a policy. Ms. Duet stated she would ask the City administration and report back to the RHC. The Commission also had questions if the policy could only be applied to the historic district or if only applied to properties with the Texas Historical Marker. Ms. Duet stated she did not have the actual number of properties located in the historic district but applying the a tax exemption policy to the historic district possibly would not be a good idea considering it would apply to non-historic structures and would already compound city tax collection where approximately 40% of City property is County owned (not tax collection). She stated a more reasonable option could be applying a tax exemption to properties with the Texas Historical Marker would be better. The Richmond Historical Commission requested to move this agenda item to the next regularly scheduled meeting for further discussion and information.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2c., refinishing Official Texas Historical Markers by the Texas Historical Commission. Ms. Duet stated the information was available online on the Texas Historical Commission's website. The website gave a video on how to easily restore your marker and do it without much cost. She encouraged the public to visit the Texas Historical Commission website.

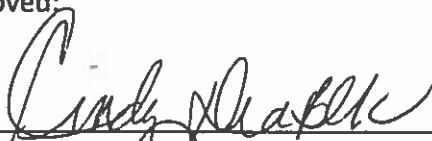
Chairperson Drabek re-introduced agenda item C1b., Community and Museum Events. Commissioner Rogers reported on the following events:

1. The Fort Bend Museum is featuring an exhibit until May 26th called Triumphs and Tribulations which focuses on African American history in Fort Bend County.
2. On February 20th the Fort Bend County Historical Commission will hold its quarterly meeting at the Gus George Academy at 3:00 pm. The speaker at the FBCHC will be on the Civil War.
3. On February 20th the Fort Bend Archeological Society will meet at 7:00 pm at the Gus George Academy.
4. On February 22nd to 24th there will be the Tales of Texas at the George Ranch Historical Park. It will be open to the public on Saturday.
5. On February 22nd the Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse will hold their Helen Cordes Annual Awards Dinner at 6:30 pm at the Stafford Center. This year's honoree is Commissioner Vincent Morales.
6. On February 25th is the Chinese Lantern Festival at George Memorial Library at 2:00 pm.
7. On February 28th the Central Fort Bend Chamber Awards Luncheon will be held at Safari Texas at 11:30 am.

8. On March 1st, the Fort Bend County Historical Commission Bert E. Bleil Heritage Award will be held at Safari Texas Veranda Room at 7:00 pm. This year's recipient is Mrs. Renee Butler.
9. On March 3rd the Brazos Cultural Heritage Festival in Decker Heritage Park from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and the Kite Festival in Sugar Land.
10. Running from March 10th to April 22nd is FOTOFEST. It is a biannual photo even held in Houston. One exhibit will be staged in the Courthouse rotunda which will feature the County initiative with sister cities in Taiwan and Turkey.
11. On March 10th there will be the Fort Bend Master Gardener's Vegetable Sale at the fair grounds and a Saturday Spotlight at George Ranch Historical Pak featuring "Women in Unexpected Roles".
12. From March 12th to 16th the George Ranch Historical Park and Fort Bend Museum will have special events (spring break).

There being no further business to be brought before the Richmond Historical Commission, Chairwoman Drabek adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

Approved:



Cindy Drabek, Richmond Historical Commission Chair