



# City of Richmond

*Where History Meets Opportunity*

## Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

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

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 8:00 am.**

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The Richmond Historical Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 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  
Lonnie Meadows  
Becky Haas  
Jess Stuart  
Claire Rogers  
Carol Edwards

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

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 February 19, 2019 regular meeting; and B2. - Announce the next Richmond Historical Commission meeting to be held on April 16, 2019. Commission member Meadows moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commission member Edwards seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1a., Downtown Richmond Updates. Commission member Haas reported the following updates:

- Movies on Morton Street
- March 29, 2019 – Analysis on Downtown conducted by the Texas Downtown Association, 2 sessions, one at 8:30 am and one at 2:30 pm at The Guild.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1b., Community and Museum Events Updates. Commission member Rogers reported general updates on the following events:

- Archeology Meeting at Gus George Academy: March 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm
- Reading Between the Wines Literacy Council at Safari Texas: March 29, 2019
- Block House 2 Year Anniversary: March 24, 2019 from 11 am – 2:00 pm; walking tours at 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm
- Brazos Cultural Heritage Festival at the Museum: March 31, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Lone Star Stomp Museum Fundraiser: April 13, 2019
- Symposium at Rice University, Convict Leasing System: April 11 & 12, 2019.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C1c., Presentation and discussion about potential demolition by neglect in the Historic District. Commission member Haas requested to have a special workshop to specifically address this topic to clarify the definition and criteria for demolition by neglect. After a brief discussion between the Commission and Historic Preservation Officer regarding scheduling, Chairperson Drabek announced a special meeting to discuss demolition by neglect for Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 8:00 am. The vote for approval of this item was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2a., Historic Property Tax Exemption Application for Darst-Yoder House located at 300 S 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Jose Abraham, HPO, stated that this property received a tax exemption last year, prior to the tax exemption program's existence. Mr. Abraham, HPO recommended approval of the application for a tax exemption of 25% and indicated that the application fulfilled all eligibility criteria. Commission member Haas moved to approve an exemption from ad valorem taxes imposed by the City in an amount not exceeding twenty-five percent (25%) of the assessed value of the Darst-Yoder House for the year 2019. Commission member Edwards seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2b., Historic District Mural Guideline update. Mr. Abraham, HPO, explained that the mural guidelines were presented to the City Commission last month, during which the City Commission suggested to include provisions to consider public input on murals after they have been installed. Based on this feedback, Mr. Abraham, HPO noted that staff would consider the possibility of including public hearings as part of the process for approval of all mural applications, but that the specifics for implementing such hearings was yet to be determined. Chairperson Drabek and Commission member Haas generally expressed that public hearing on mural applications may not be very productive.

Chairperson Drabek introduced agenda item C2c., Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign permit application for Blockhouse Coffee & Kitchen located at 611 Jackson Street, Suite C. Mr. Abraham, HPO stated that the sign permit application was submitted with dimensions greater than what is permissible under the Unified Development Code and that sign area allowance for Olde Town and Downtown district is 0.5 square foot per linear business frontage. He also added that the applicant has been notified about revising and resubmitting the application. Mr. Abraham, HPO recommended approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness with a condition that necessary revisions to the sign design shall be made to comply with the requirements of the

Unified Development Code. Commission member Haas moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign permit application for Blockhouse Coffee & Kitchen located at 611 Jackson Street, Suite C with a condition that the proposed sign design shall be revised for compliance with the UDC and resubmitted to the HPO. Commission member Meadows seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairperson Drabek introduced C2d., Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign permit application for 310 Gallery located at 310 Morton Street. Mr. Abraham, HPO explained that staff had received the sign application, but that no additional plans were provided. Only a statement of intent indicating that the existing gallery sign would be retitled to "310 Gallery" with the same color scheme was included with the application. Mr. Abraham, HPO indicated that the applicant has been contacted and staff is awaiting a response. Chairperson Drabek asked that the applicant submit a graphical representation of the proposed sign. Commission member Haas moved to postpone consideration until the next regular meeting. Commission member Edwards seconded the motion.

Following the discussion of items on the agenda, Mr. Abraham, HPO introduced Mason Garcia, *Associate Planner* for the City of Richmond.

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

Approved



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Cindy Drabek, Richmond Historical Commission Chair