



City of Richmond

Where History Meets Opportunity

Richmond Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

600 Morton Street
City Commission Room
Richmond, Texas 77469
Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 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, November 15, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. Cindy Drabek, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Karen Bleil
Ann Council
Cindy Drabek
Becky Haas
Lonnie Meadows
Claire Rogers (non-voting)
Jess Stuart (non-voting)

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek declared the meeting open.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item number A2., public comment. A public hearing form was submitted by Ms. Marlene Dame of 302 and 304 Morton Street, Richmond, TX. Ms. Dame spoke on the issue of parking in downtown. Ms. Dame stated that people park in front of her storefront for 10 to 12 hours at a time. Mrs. Dame would like to know if the City would address the lack of parking in downtown Richmond. Hearing no other public comment the agenda item was closed.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item B1., review and approve minutes from October 18, 2016. The motion was presented by Commissioner Meadows and seconded by Commissioner Council for approval. The vote was four "ayes" and no "nays" for approval.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C1., Economic Development Update from Economic Development Director, Mr. Rob Tobias. Mr. Tobias spoke of the conference he attended for the annual Texas Downtown Association. The conference focused on the Mainstreet Program. Mr. Tobias stated that he would like to see the City participate in the Mainstreet program. Mr. Tobias said there was interest in a major developer for the old fire station property; reminded the Commission about the upcoming Pecan Festival on November 20th and Miracle on Morton Street on December 3rd. Chairwoman Drabek asked how many parking spaces were available at the old fire station property. Mr. Tobias responded there were 15 parking spaces. Commissioner Meadows asked if there was potential for green space in the Historic District and where. Mr. Tobias responded he did not know.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C2a., Downtown Richmond. Commissioner Becky Haas reported that businesses will be open from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on November 20th for the Pecan Festival. Commissioner Haas also stated the downtown business merchants will be meeting once a month for coffee to discuss business and other items in the district. Other merchants not in attendance are always invited to the coffee meeting. There is a request by the RHC to expand the Historic District boundaries to include Freeman Town. Commissioner Haas also spoke of parking demands in downtown Richmond. Commissioner Haas stated she would like for the City to look at a downtown parking plan Ms. Laurel Wendt has for the City. Jessica Duet, HPO, stated that City staff would be happy to review the downtown parking plan per the RHC's request but would need the map and all the supporting documentation that went into making the downtown parking plan map.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C2b., Community and Museum Events. Commissioner Rogers gave updates on the following events in the community: the Fort Bend Historical Commission will be meeting today; Friends of Fort Bend County will be meeting tomorrow; Miracle on Morton Street will be December 3rd from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (no charge); George Ranch Historical Park will have December tours; and the Pecan Festival will be November 20th (no charge).

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C3a., Historic Preservation Officer's (HPO) report on Morton Street Business Holiday Decorations Discussion. Ms. Jessica Duet, Historic Preservation Officer, stated a downtown business owner met with herself and other City staff to discuss Christmas decorations. The business owner wanted to get all the business owners together in downtown and decorate all their storefronts. Ms. Duet suggested since Commissioner Haas brought up the monthly meeting with downtown merchants if she could talk to the business owners about the idea.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C3b., HPO's review of the Powers and Duties of the Richmond Historical Commission from the Unified Development Code. Ms.

Duet read from Chapter 6, *Administration*, Section 6.2.104, *Richmond Historical Commission*, Subsection C., *Powers and Duties*, specifically numbers 1 through 20 to the Commissioners of the Unified Development Code.

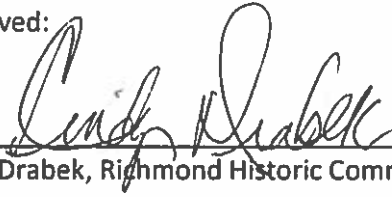
Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C3c., HPO's update on the wayfinding sign program. Ms. Duet thanked all the RHC members who were in attendance at the wayfinding sign kick-off meeting on October 27th. Ms. Duet stated at that meeting the stakeholders were able to establish important destinations for the signs. The stakeholders were also important in discussing the design for the signs. Now that the kick-off meeting has concluded, the consultant is working on the sign design phase of the project.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C3d., HPO's report for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign located at 102 South 3rd Street for the Lone Star Saloon. Ms. Duet stated that the sign met the regulations outline in the Historic Districts Design Guidelines and the Unified Development Code. The proposed sign was recommended approval for the Certificate of Appropriateness. Commissioner Meadows motioned to recommend approval in accordance with the HPO. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Council. The vote was four "ayes" and no "nays" for approval.

Chairwoman Cindy Drabek introduced agenda item C3e., HPO's discussion on downtown parking. Ms. Duet stated to the Commission that just east of Decker Park the City will be constructing a parking lot with a hard surface. The City also has a gravel parking lot just west of Decker Park which is used for special events held at Wessendorff Park. She stated this might not ease parking on Morton Street but the City has plans to expand the parking. Ms. Duet acknowledged it is on the northside of the railroad tracks and it is not a safest option for parking. Chairwoman Drabek asked if on-street parking in places like in front of the City Hall Annex were available for on-street parking. Ms. Duet stated that on-street parking was available in front of the City Hall Annex. Ms. Duet stated that on-street parking was available where ever there was not a "no parking" sign. Commission Haas brought up her concerns from the previous discussion from agenda item C2a. It was a consensus from the RHC to ask the HPO to bring their concerns to the City Administration. The RHC wanted Ms. Duet to ask the City Administration to consider 2-hour parking signs for the parking spaces along business fronts along Morton Street. Ms. Duet stated she would bring their concerns to the City Administration.

There being no further business to be brought before the Richmond Historical Commission, Chairwoman Drabek adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Drabek", written over a horizontal line.

Cindy Drabek, Richmond Historic Commission Chair