

Minutes
Historic Resources Board
Conduff Conference Room, City Hall
1101 Poyntz Avenue
June 27, 2005
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, Chair; Larry Brockson, Vice Chair; Jan Borst; Mike Mecseri; Tom Roberts; Jean Hill; Ray Weisenburger.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Bob Bettis, CLG Coordinator, Kansas State Historical Society.

Staff Present: Karen Davis, Director of Community Development; Cam Moeller, Planner II.

1. Consider the minutes of the April 25, 2005 Historic Resources Board meeting.

Borst moved that the Board approve the minutes. Brockson seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 5-0 (Hill and Weisenburger had not yet arrived).

2. Other Matters:

The three new members of the Board were introduced: Mike Mecseri, Tom Roberts, and Jean Hill. Bob Bettis introduced himself as the new Certified Local Government (CLG) Coordinator. The Board discussed the City's responsibility as a CLG.

3. ENVIRONS REVIEW

Apartment Towers, 5th & Leavenworth Street: Telecommunications Facility, within Environs of Damon Runyon House, 400 Osage Street.

The Board discussed the application. The Board was informed that the proposal will go before the Planning Board as a PUD amendment, and that planning staff is recommending that the color and texture of the telecommunications structure be similar to that of the exterior of the building.

The Board found that the proposed project meets the Standards and Guidelines for Evaluating the Effect of Projects on Environs and will not encroach upon, damage or destroy any historic property or their environs. A motion supporting the proposed project was made by Roberts, seconded by Mecseri, and adopted on a vote of 6-0 (Weisenburger had not yet arrived).

4. UPDATE: ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Family & Child Resource Center, 2101 Claflin Road: Air Lock, within Environs of Platt House, 2005 Claflin Road.

The Board was informed of the administrative review and of SHPO's approval of the project.

5. Discuss Union Pacific Depot – Tax Credit Project.

Davis updated the Board about the next phase of the rehabilitation of the Depot. The project is a partnership between the City and the Kansas Department of Transportation and will involve improvements to the interior, exterior, replacement of the Tower and construction of parking facilities. Of the total project cost, federal funds were awarded at 80 percent with a local share of 20 percent. The Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance has raised the majority of the local matching funds, and the City Commission agreed to provide funds to complete the fundraising efforts of the Alliance.

The project is close to being bid, as City Administration has just received final approvals from the Department of Transportation. It is expected the project will be bid in July and construction may take 8-10 months.

Because the Depot is listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places the City can apply for tax credits on the value of qualifying costs from the local match being contributed to the project.

Roberts moved that the Board recommend that any revenue the City receives by selling tax credits be used for the Depot. Borst seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 7-0.

6. Discuss inclusion of a Multiple Property Submission (MPS) as an item in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

The Board discussed the reasons why they feel it is important to include a Multiple Property Submission (MPS) in the 2006 CIP. The Board emphasized the potential economic benefits of having additional properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Board suggested that listed properties help preserve neighborhood stability, which in turn stabilize and increase property values and improve the tax base. The Board also said that historic preservation can bring in tourism, create new jobs, and will promote further investment in Manhattan by improving the overall appearance of the community. Besides the potential economic benefits, the Board also made general statements about historic preservation being environmentally-responsible because it is making use of existing resources.

7. Discuss presentation of Cultural Resource Survey report.

The Board was informed that they are scheduled to present the Survey Report to the City Commission on July 19th. Lynn-Sherow, as Chair, will do the presentation.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Moeller, AICP, Planner II

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