

Minutes
Historic Resources Board
City Commission Room, City Hall
1101 Poyntz Avenue
January 26, 2009
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ray Weisenburger; Tracy Anderson; Patrick Schaub; Bonnie Lynn-Sherow.

Members Absent: Tom Roberts, Chair; Brooke Norman-Tapp, Vice Chair; Elaine Mohr.

Others Present: Steve Lee; Linda Glasgow; Chuck Bartlett, HWS; Buck Driggs, HWS.

Staff Present: Karen Davis, Director of Community Development; Cam Moeller, Planner II; Jason Hilgers, Assistant City Manager; Dale Houdeshell, Director of Public Works; Robb Ott, City Engineer.

Lynn-Sherow ran the meeting due to the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

1. Consider the minutes of the December 15, 2008, and January 12, 2009, Historic Resources Board meetings.

Linda Glasgow said she wanted to clarify that her suggestion at the January 12th meeting, regarding the Board's review of the Removal of Structures in the South Downtown Redevelopment Area, was that historical research of the area be done before any decisions are made by the City to undertake work on the project.

The Board made the suggestion that, for future significant demolition projects, background historical information be gathered, related to the "sense of place" and "human relationships" connected to the area, for the Board to be able to consider in its review.

Schaub moved that the Board approve the minutes, with a minor correction. Anderson seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 4-0.

2. South 4th Street

- **Improvements / Sidewalks**
- **Historic Signs**

Houdeshell presented the Board with a range of options under consideration for the use of reclaimed bricks as part of 4th Street improvements, including where they would be located and whether they would be installed with a sand or concrete base. Other alternatives for the sidewalks include the use of stamped concrete and brick pavers.

Lynn-Sherow said that older bricks, like those found in Ward 1, have a different consistency than newer bricks, and would hold up better sitting on a sand base. Lynn-Sherow said Bricktown in Oklahoma City is an example of a commercial area where bricks walks have been constructed without a concrete base.

Schaub presented the Board with several sidewalk paving options that he obtained from the Brick Industry Association (BIA), which include options for commercial as well as residential sidewalks. Schaub also provided cost estimates per square foot for each of the options.

Lynn-Sherow said that brick sidewalks could be considered a character-defining feature of the environs around the Houston and Pierre Streets Residential Historic District, which is located one block to the west. Lynn-Sherow said she would like to see some uniformity in appearance of the sidewalks along 4th Street and also in how they connect to the existing brick sidewalks to the west.

Weisenburger moved that the Board recommend that the City investigate opportunities to place brick sidewalk on the west side of 4th Street from Ft. Riley Boulevard to Pierre Street, with the preference that reclaimed/recycled brick be utilized for as much of the sidewalk as possible, with new bricks used for the remainder of the sidewalk.

Lynn-Sherow seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed on a vote of 4-0.

After a discussion of the merits of installing bricks over a sand base versus a concrete base, the Board was of the general opinion that that decision was a design issue and did not make a recommendation.

Steve Lee said he was looking for input from the Board related to historic signs to be placed on South 4th Street. Lee noted that plans call for one interpretive sign in front of the Bethel AME Church at 4th and Yuma Street, and two street signs, one for Yuma Street and one for Colorado Street.

Lynn-Sherow made the suggestion that an additional sign be created on 4th Street for the Houston and Pierre Streets Residential Historic District, so that anyone reading the sign would be made aware that the District is located a block away.

After a discussion of the challenge in finding a suitable location for placement of an additional sign, it was agreed that City staff and the project team would continue to work with the Board in looking for opportunities to develop and place such a sign.

3. Announcements and Updates

- **4th & Bluemont**
- **Brick Sidewalks**

Davis updated the Board about the comment period for the draft 4(f) document that addresses the impacts on the historic homes at the 4th & Bluemont intersection.

Lynn-Sherow updated the Board about her ongoing research into options available for brick sidewalk preservation.

4. Discuss projects to request for inclusion in the 2010-2015 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) / HRB Strategic Plan.

Lynn-Sherow suggested that a potential project would be the replacement of street lights in the Wards 1 and 2 neighborhoods with lighting that has a more historic appearance and is pedestrian in scale. Lynn-Sherow suggested that research into the type of street lighting used historically in Manhattan's neighborhoods, as well as other common examples found in Kansas, could be used to determine what would be most appropriate.

Lynn-Sherow moved that the Board request a CIP Project for the City to undertake the replacement of street lights in Wards 1 and 2 with historically appropriate lighting. The pedestrian-level lighting at the entry into Manhattan Marketplace is one example of the type of lighting that would be considered appropriate.

Schaub seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 4-0.

5. Future Items

It was agreed that the HRB Strategic Plan would be discussed at a future meeting. Weisenburger provided City staff with a list, and description, of issues to consider for the strategic planning discussion.

6. Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, February 23, 2009
- Monday, March 23, 2009

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cam Moeller, AICP, Planner II
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