

Minutes
HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD
City Commission Room, City Hall
1101 Poyntz Avenue
Monday, January 27, 2014
4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Patrick Schaub, Chair; Michael Mecseri; Angie Danner; Dea Brokesh; Betty Mattingly.

Members Absent: Dixie West, Vice-Chair; Michael Krysko.

Others Present: Linda Glasgow; Kathy Dzewaltowski.

Staff Present: Kevin Credit, Planner; Lance Evans, Senior Planner; Wyatt Thompson, Parks Planner.

Schaub began the meeting by informing the Board that an item would be added after the Administrative Review Summary to discuss the historical marker in Long's Park and other Parks and Recreation projects.

1. Consider the minutes for the December 16, 2013 Historic Resources Board meeting.

Mecseri and Brokesh noted corrections to the minutes. Mattingly moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Danner seconded the motion, which passed on a vote of 5-0.

2. Comprehensive Plan Update:

- Discussion of HRB Action Plan, 2013 CIP projects, and 50-Year-Old City-Owned Properties list.

Brokesh suggested that the Board update the 2011 Action Plan. She then asked what happened to progress on a demolition by neglect ordinance – there had been a standing agenda item with Code Services, but that was no longer the case. Credit explained that Board members could still bring questions and complaints on specific properties to any meeting, and Code Services would be scheduled to report on those issues – none had recently been raised. Brokesh suggested bringing back a regular report from Code, perhaps on a quarterly basis.

Brokesh mentioned downtown design guidelines and said that it might be good to include projects like that as goals in the Comprehensive Plan Update. She added that having a priority list of projects, including additional cultural resource surveys, is something the Board could look at. The Board discussed updating the 2011 Action Plan with some of the results of the goals it included, such as the African American Cultural Resources Survey and archeological studies. Schaub said that an updating list of goals from the Action Plan could be used for the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Danner suggested creating a matrix with a high/medium/low priority status for various projects. The Board then discussed creating a matrix that showed the progress attained on the projects listed in the Action Plan before creating a new set of goals, and addressing the list regularly and using it to prioritize the Board's actions. Danner said that the matrix could be brought as part of the packet every month, just so that everyone could be up-to-date on the status of the Board's goals. Credit said that he could build the initial spreadsheet of Goals from the 2011 Action Plan and bring it back to the Board to populate the data on progress made towards those goals. Schaub said that he could also work with Staff to develop the matrix. Mattingly said that the Board first needs to evaluate where they are on the past Action Plan items, then assess new goals and priorities. Schaub asked Staff to draft a goal list for comment and to put it on next month's agenda.

3. 2014 CIP Projects:

- Discussion of HRB CIP project requests for 2014.

The Board discussed last year's CIP requests and the possible reasons that they were denied. Credit said that Staff did not receive a lot of feedback on why none of the requests were put into the CIP. Evans said that the City budget had been cut fairly substantially last year, so there was not a lot of room for any additional projects. The Board discussed past successful CIP requests, such as the African American Cultural Resources Survey. Schaub said that it is also a matter of showing support for the importance of the items that they put forward. He said that the Board should decide on what CIP items the Board wants to approve at the February meeting, and support them with a letter writing campaign to the City Commission.

4. Administrative Review Summary:

- 313 Poyntz Avenue: Sign Permit. *Within the Downtown Manhattan Historic District.*

Credit presented a summary of the administrative reviews completed in the month of January.

5. Long's Park Historical Marker

Thompson presented on updated text for the proposed historical marker in Long's Park. Brokesh asked if the Optimist Club's tree sales in the park might be included in the description. The Board discussed the historical use of the park for travelling motorists, with a writing room and community kitchen to prepare meals in an era before fast food. Schaub suggested that all of the dates on the marker be double-checked and verified. He also said that the marker seems like a good opportunity to link to more information online or at the Riley County Historical Society, perhaps through a QR code. Danner said that she was surprised to not see the years of Long's mayoral time in office on the plaque, and the Board discussed his accomplishments as mayor and whether that information was germane to the Long's Park marker itself. Schaub suggested using specific dates in the last paragraph, rather than general "1960s" terms.

Thompson then presented a map of Long's Park showing the probable original locations of the comfort house, gas station, and market, along with views of historic photographs to those areas. He also presented two different options for placement of the historic marker – one on 17th Street near the original gas station, and one in the center of the park. Thompson then discussed several upcoming Parks and Recreation projects for 2014, including repairs at the Union Pacific Depot to the trim and fascia (using entirely-matching materials and colors), as well as repairs to the roof tiles and trim at the Sunset Cemetery carriage house (also using entirely-matching materials). He added that they were working to make Wildcat Creek Linear Park more accessible and well-marked, and that some WPA-era stone benches along the trail were being restored for use along the path. Thompson said that there could be some synergy possible between the Wildcat Creek Linear Park re-dedication, the Long's Park re-dedication, historic preservation month in May, and the historic summit, all occurring at or around the same time.

6. Announcements and Updates.

- Update on the Jarbeaux House RFP.
- Update on Sunset Zoo construction projects.

Evans updated the Board on the Jarbeaux House RFP, explaining that the proposal was for \$14,000 to purchase, repair, and renovate the house, and was accepted by the City Commission.

Evans also updated the Board on the Zoo construction project at the Gibbon exhibit, explaining that they are attaching netting to the stone walls to enclose an exhibit area. Thompson added that there will be a central pole in the exhibit that has netting attached to it, which will stretch to walls at the front and rear, so that people can view the exhibit from both the top and bottom of the hill. He said they are also planning to create an accessible route between the stone benches and the exhibit at the top.

Dzewaltowski asked for an update on 1446 Laramie – although it had been approved for demolition over a year ago, the building was still standing. She said that it was still in violation of the code, because the owner hasn't demolished it or fixed it up at this point.

Glasgow gave an update on the Heritage Trust Fund grant, saying that it was under attack in the State Legislature. She said that the Union Pacific Depot, Riley County Courthouse, and Carnegie Library have all benefitted from the grant funds. She urged everyone to pay attention so that we don't lose this valuable resource for preservation in the community.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, February 24, 2014.
- Monday, March 24, 2014.

8. Adjourn.