

Minutes
HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD
City Commission Room, City Hall
1101 Poyntz Avenue
Monday, April 25th, 2016
4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Dea Brokesh; Craig Hager; Betty Mattingly-Ebert, Vice-Chair; Eileen Meyer; and Suzanne Orr; Cameron Tross, Chair.

Members Absent: Tyler Holloman.

Others Present: Kathy Dzewaltowski; Linda Glasgow; Linda Morse; and Erin Maher.

Staff Present: Benjamin Chmiel, Planner; Lance Evans, Senior Planner; Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner; Tim Kellams, Parks and Recreation; and Chris L'Ecuyer, Grant Administrator.

1. Consider the minutes from March 28, 2016 meeting.

Brokesh moved to approve the minutes as written. Mattingly-Ebert seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Historic Court House Square (Colorado Park) Improvements.

Thompson presented a proposal for improvements to Historic Court House Square, including rehabilitation to existing brick sidewalks, tree plantings, new seating, and the addition of a new concrete pathway crossing through the center of the park in a north-south orientation. The pathway included a central seating area, a historical marker, and new trees plantings to flank it, reestablishing the tree coverage extant in the 1950's. Open spaces on both the east and west side of the park would be maintained for unprogrammed recreational opportunity. No changes to the County Jail or Municipal Court structures were proposed.

Tross asked if the new center pathway could be paved with brick, as that was a prominent characteristic of the district. Thompson said it was something to consider. Tross also asked if the planting of mature trees were possible. Thompson said they would plant the largest trees they could afford. Tross asked if there were any opportunities for public art in the central seating area. Thompson said it would be something that would be entertained, if the Historic Resources Board and the Arts and Humanities Board could collaborate on something. He also mentioned the intention of adding a historical marker on the site. Brokesh asked if the sandpit would remain. Thompson explained that the placement of the pit in the design proposal was not ideal, but it would be included in the final design. Brokesh asked if there were any particular reason for the location of the path connecting to the existing sidewalk. Thompson explained that it is better in line with the

existing trees, it connects at about the half-block point, and it sticks to geometric design features of the exiting jail. Brokesh raised concern that pedestrians would not follow the path and would rather continue straight across the grass area. She recommended some kind of landscaping barrier to prevent that and evaluate existing and proposed pedestrian patterns in the area. Thompson said that aspect could be refined. Mattingly-Ebert noted that the design was overall very good. Meyer noted that the design was very thoughtful.

Dzewaltowski asked if there would be any plans to incorporate or improve the jail site at any point. Thompson said there were some utility elements on the building that were no longer usable and could be cleaned up, though it was not necessarily in the scope of this project. He also noted that there are no plans for repurposing the structure at this time and it is currently used for storage. Thompson explained that the next step would be to forward the design to SHPO for approval. Tross noted that the design was sensitive to its historic context and he was in favor of the improvements. Mattingly-Ebert said she was supportive and it would be returning the site to a more historic landscape.

Tross moved the Board is in support of the concept of improvements to the Historic Courthouse Square as presented. Mattingly-Ebert seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Roundhouse (Floral Hall) National Register Nomination.

Chmiel explained that the Riley County Historic Museum found newspaper clippings from the 1870s depicting some information about Floral Hall in City Park. He explained there was a building existing on the site before the Floral Hall there now, which had the same function, but was demolished before the current building was constructed. It had approximately the same floor area, but was arranged in a cross shape, as opposed to the octagonal shaped building there now. Chmiel explained an article mentioned plans to rebuild Floral Hall as it is today was dated for 1874 so it could be assumed it was constructed in the following year.

Glasgow explained the building is significant because of its odd shape and unique style. She also mentioned that 1875 was a good estimation for the build date. Orr asked if there were similar examples of this building in other places. Brokesh believed there were.

Chmiel said he could contact SHPO to ask if the information available would be enough to submit a nomination form or the Board could move forward with a recommendation with the information available. The Board directed city staff to contact SHPO and ask if the information available would be sufficient for a nomination or if more documentation would be necessary.

4. Minor Review Applications.

Chmiel presented a minor review sign application approval for 431 Poyntz. The Board had no comments or questions.

5. Updates and Announcements.

Chmiel notified the Board of the Aggieville Community Vision planning initiative, explaining the management of the historic resources in the district would be included in the plan. He encouraged the Board to participate in the process.

Chmiel notified the Board that the City would be receiving grant funding from KDOT for the Phase II rehabilitation of Juliette Ave. from Laramie to Osage St. Construction for Phase I (Bluemont to Laramie) would begin summer 2016 and construction for Phase II is estimated for summer of 2017 or 2018.

Chmiel reminded the Board that the Historic Preservation Proclamation would be held during the City Commission Meeting on May 3, at 7:00 pm. in the City Commission Room.

Chmiel also reminded the Board that a National Register Nomination Workshop would be held on Thursday, May 19th at 4 p.m. in the Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania St, Lawrence, KS.

Myers announced that the Historic Summit would be held at the Manhattan Public Library on Thursday May 5th at 7:00 pm.

6. Upcoming Meetings.

- Monday, May 23, 2016.
- Monday, June 27, 2016.

7. Adjourn.