

Minutes

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD

Virtual Meeting
Monday, Aug 24, 2020
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Kevin West, Chair; Tom Hanson, Jana Fallin, and Bethany Pingel.

Members Absent: Eileen Meyer, Vice-chair; Ann Kosch and Cameron Tross

Staff Present: Ben Chmiel, Planner.

Public Present: John Adam, Senior Planner.

1. MEETING OPENING

West called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Staff performed roll call and confirmed a quorum. Chmiel noted no public comment had been submitted for the meeting. Fallin moved to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2020 meeting. Hanson seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

2. WORK SESSION

Chmiel described the background of the Aggieville Historic Resources Survey project. He noted the City received a grant for the project in May 2019 and ran from October 2019 through July 2020. He explained that a summary report of the findings was available on the City Website and that individual records for buildings in the area were available on the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory.

Chmiel described the survey area, which included the Aggieville commercial area. He showed the consultants determination of the age and integrity of individual buildings, which would be used to determine its status as either contributing or non-contributing in a historic district. He also pointed out buildings that were determined eligible for the State & National register on their own. Chmiel showed the recommended historic district boundary, noting how difficult it was for the consultant to propose a recommended boundary with a majority of the buildings in it that could be considered contributing, but it was possible to create one.

Chmiel gave an overview of the basics of financial incentives available to contributing buildings within a historic district, including grants and tax credits. He also gave an overview of the review process required for projects seeking a permit.

Chmiel described the next steps in the process, which included a meeting with business and property owners to discuss the report and its recommendations in order to gain consensus on the establishment of a district. He also noted that majority property owner consent was required to establish a district and that the City would not and could not unilaterally establish a district.

West asked how property owner consent was calculated and how property owners with multiple properties were counted. Chmiel said he looked over the statute and interpreted it to mean that it required a majority of the number property owners no matter how many properties they owned or how big or small those properties were.

Pingel praised the City's efforts in initiating the project, noting the positive implications for future generations to enjoy the history of Aggieville.

Fallin said the report was amazing and interesting to read. She asked if the report would be available on the City Website. Chmiel said it would. Fallin asked if the next step would be to get the owners to talk about the report. Chmiel said that was the next step. Chmiel explained that property owners have been uncomfortable with the idea of a district in the past, but hoped to communicate the benefits to them and aid in the application process. West emphasized that property owners would still maintain control of their property.

Chmiel noted that the report also served as a basis for owners of individual buildings to complete a nomination solely for their building, as it would provide them a lot of information to do so. West commended staff and the consultant for the work.

3. ELECTIONS

West called for nominations for Chair. Fallin nominated West for Chair of the Historic Resources Board. Hanson Seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. Hanson nominated Meyer for Vice Chair. Fallin seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

4. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chmiel said he researched other CLGs in Kansas to understand how their local registers worked in response to the Board's goal to make the Manhattan register more popular.

6. ADJOURNMENT

West adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm. The next meeting would be held Monday, September 23, 2020.