



City of Arts & Innovation

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD
DRAFT MINUTES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021, 3:30 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER
3900 MAIN STREET

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT: M. Carter (late, virtual), J. Cuevas (virtual), J. Gamble, P. Horychuk, C. McDoniel, C. Tobin

ABSENT: J. Brown, N. Ferguson, S. Lech

STAFF: P. Brenes, D. Murray, S. Watson, A. Beaumon, F. Andrade

Vice-Chair Gamble called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no one requesting to speak.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was unanimously approved as presented below affirming the actions appropriate to each item.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of September 15, 2021 and amended minutes of July 21, 2021 were approved as presented.

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD ATTENDANCE

The Board excused the September 15, 2021 absence of Board Member Cuevas, Board Member Ferguson and Board Member Lech due to business.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITY REPORT

The Board received and filed the 2021-3rd Quarter Report on Historic Preservation activity.

Motion by Board Member Horychuk and Seconded by Board Member Tobin, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 4 Absent, 1 Abstention

AYES: J. Gamble, P. Horychuk, C. McDoniel, C. Tobin

NOES: None

ABSENT: J. Brown, M. Carter, N. Ferguson, S. Lech

ABSTENTION: Cuevas



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Board Member Carter joined the meeting at this time.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

CITYWIDE GIS SYSTEM AND HISTORIC VIEW UPDATE

Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer, introduced George Khalil, Chief Innovation Officer.

Mr. Khalil updated the Board on the citywide GIS system. He noted that there is still some data clean up to be completed. Following this, staff will be working on the development of the viewer itself within the next six months.

Board Member McDoniel asked if this was an in-house system or a purchased system? She noted that the system has been down for three-years now, how much longer?

Mr. Khalil replied that they are trying to leverage commercial off the shelf system software to avoid being in the same situation with a 30-year custom developed system. The purchased software will provide continuing life expectancy of the product.

He noted that staff has been working on the GIS update which has been completed. They are looking at focusing on the historic property viewer and will be spending some of their budget, to hire additional assistance, to make sure they are finished within the next six months.

Public comment: There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Tobin stated that he hoped the new system would incorporate everything on the old system.

Mr. Watson replied that all the information previously available is being worked on to be transferred to the new GIS system. There is currently an Excel spread sheet available on-line that is an export of the Access Database. The spread sheet does have its challenges but the information on the database is available and, as always, the public can contact him for additional information.



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Mr. Khalil stated that there is some clean-up that is taking some of their time. There are three staff members that manage the information for the City. He reiterated that work for the historic property viewer is one of their priorities.

WORKSHOP BY THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON RIVERSIDE DOWNTOWN STATION IMPROVEMENTS AND THE RELATED SECTION 106 PROCESS

Mr. Watson introduced Elizabeth Suh, RCTC.

Ms. Suh stated she will be providing an update on the Riverside Downtown Station Improvements project. She introduced Leslie Schwab, Cultural Resources Specialist and Architectural Historian, provided the brief history of the FMC complex.

Ms. Suh stated that the closing slide shows how to stay connected and contact information. She stated that project team members and RCTC staff were available to answer any questions.

Public Comments: There were no calls from the audience.

Board Member Tobin stated that the exhibit on page 9 appears to be incorrect. It does not correctly show what has been built and what is proposed to be built.

Ms. Suh stated they would double check this to make sure this diagram is correct and get back to the Board.

Board Member Tobin noted that FMC building's current City Landmark designation includes both the 1938 and 1942 structure, correct? Both of these are still privately owned properties? Has RCTC entered into a purchase agreement?

Mr. Watson replied affirmatively that both buildings are designated as a City Landmark.

Ms. Suh stated that the property has been appraised but there is no purchase agreement at this time. When the documents are approved, these documents will become public.

Board Member Tobin reiterated that the Board is not in a position comment, based on his concerns that the fundamental exhibit is not correct. He found it difficult to discuss the project.



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Vice-Chair Gamble invited RCTC to provide updated information addressing the Board's concerns at a future meeting.

Ms. Suh agreed.

Board Member McDoniel noted that this project started pre-pandemic. The ridership has decreased significantly and there seems to be an urgency to the project. She asked if there were any ridership studies, grant time constraints, what is pushing this project forward?

Ms. Suh replied that they do have an FTA Grant. As far as timing constraints she would defer to Sheldon Peterson. The ridership hasn't recovered to the level of ridership pre-pandemic.

Board Member McDoniel encouraged the RCTC board to look at that again before solid decisions are made. To the remediation, leaving the building there is a larger impact than destroying the building on the environmental conditions? What are the differences, are there no environmental impacts on leaving the building as is? Slide 16, the mitigation measures are not preservation. Tearing down a building and putting up a plaque is not preservation. Oral histories, design features, recycling building materials and interpretive displays, there is an interpretation that this lessens the blow of losing a cultural resource. However, she wanted to be clear that it was more of an insult and to staunch preservationists, it is akin to putting up a tomb stone. She wanted to make it clear that these are not helpful.

Board Member Horychuk stated that it is being explicitly referenced as improving train operations, enhancing safety and access and encouraging transit use. She asked if there were documents that can be provided with information that train operations have been impeded, that safety and access are issues and that this will actually encourage transit use? Have other areas been considered for this project?

Ms. Suh explained that it has been identified by Metrolink as an important station that needs to be updated. She added that nine different alternatives have been identified and will be presented in the environmental document.

Board Member Tobin stated that he wrote David Lewis an email indicating that this is also a County landmark. He asked if this was part of their record as well? There is significant



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community opposition, it would be important to be completely candid what is driving this project, ridership issue is another issue.

Motion by Board Member Tobin to continue this discussion to the Cultural Heritage Board November 17, 2021 meeting, Seconded by Board Member Horychuk.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: M. Carter, J. Cuevas, J. Gamble, P. Horychuk, C. McDoniel, C. Tobin

NOES: None

ABSENT: J. Brown, N. Ferguson, S. Lech

ABSTENTION: None

Vice Chair Gamble announced that due to the time constraints, the balance of the agenda needed to be continued to the meeting of November 17, 2021

Motion by Board Member Horychuk and Seconded by Board Member McDoniel to continue the balance of the agenda to the November 17, 2021 meeting.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: M. Carter, J. Cuevas, J. Gamble, P. Horychuk, C. McDoniel, C. Tobin

NOES: None

ABSENT: J. Brown, N. Ferguson, S. Lech

ABSTENTION: None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. to the meeting of November 17, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.