



HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 14, 2019

City of Arts & Innovation

January 14, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
Mayor's Ceremonial Room, 7th Floor
City Hall, 3900 Main Street

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Mike Gardner, Philip Falcone, Jennifer Gamble
Steve Lech, Charles Tobin

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner
Anthony Beaumon, Deputy City Attorney
Scott Watson, Associate Planner
Frances Andrade, Project Assistant

Chairman Gardner called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Karen Stegman, addressed the committee. She stated she had received a grant but due to delays on the contractor's part, and other personal issues, her work did not start before the expiration date of the grant. She stated that she felt it was a blessing when she was awarded the grant a year ago, and literally cried when she lost it. It was a struggle for her to save the \$10,000 in matching funds. She spoke with Mr. Watson who recommended that she write a letter requesting an extension. She did not realize that the letter had to be received 30 days prior to the expiration date. Staff denied the request for an extension as her letter was received late. She stated that she honestly thought the roof would be completed by December, 2018. She stated she would like to appeal the denial of her request.

Chair Gardner inquired what flexibility the Committee had in this situation?

Scott Watson, Associate Planner, stated that the contracts indicate any request for an extension must be submitted 30 days prior to the expiration date which was December 31, 2018. On this basis, staff had to reject the request.

Mary Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner, asked if there were any legal concerns?

Anthony Beaumon, Sr. Deputy City Attorney, stated that the applicant can reapply for the grant.

Chair Gardner agreed but noted that the funds awarded to Ms. Stegman would return to the HP Fund and she would be competing with other applicants at the time she reapplies.

Mr. Beaumon commented that he was not prepared to provide an answer at this time. He would need to research the matter further.

Committee Member Lech noted that the Committee could make a rule change so that appeals can be accepted.

Mr. Beaumon stated he would have to research if this is something the Committee can do or if it must go to the City Council to ratify. He noted that the rules the Historic Preservation Fund Committee operate under were provided to the City Council when it was created.

Chair Gardner stated his inclination is to try and figure out a way to accommodate the applicant. This is not something the applicant intentionally set out to do. He inquired of Mr. Beaumon if the Committee could approve an extension pending necessary approvals by City Council.

Mr. Beaumon explained that item was not on the agenda, therefore, this body cannot take an action on it. He suggested scheduling a special meeting for this item.

Chair Gardner agreed and asked staff to find a day that works for everyone. He felt this was the right thing to do and would like to see this move forward.

Ms. Stegman thanked the Committee.