



City of Arts & Innovation

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020, 3:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT VIA TELEPHONE
3900 MAIN STREET

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: C. Tobin, J. Gamble, J. Cuevas, N. Ferguson, M. Carter, P. Falcone, J. Brown,
N. Parrish, S. Lech

STAFF: M. Kopaskie-Brown, P. Brenes, Watson, S., A. Beaumon, F. Andrade

Chair Lech called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were none.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Lech opened the nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Board Member Ferguson nominated Board Member Falcone for Chair, seconded by Board Member Brown.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

Board Member Tobin nominated Board Member Natasha Ferguson as Vice-Chair. Board Member Ferguson thanked Board Member Tobin but declined the nomination.

Board member Tobin nominated Board Member Parrish for Vice Chair, seconded by Board Member Falcone.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None



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Chair Falcone motioned that in light of the issues he was experiencing with his audio, he requested Board Member Lech to continue as Chair for the meeting of May 20, 2020. The motion was seconded by Board Member Carter.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PLANNING CASE P20-0074 – *HISTORIC DESIGNATION 3252 MISSION INN AVENUE, WARD 2*
Proposal by Naomi Avila to consider a Historic Designation request for City Landmark designation of the former Freeland Tractor Company Showroom building, currently designated as a Structure of Merit. Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer, presented the staff report. Chuck Avila stated they were in agreement with the landmark designation. There were no public comments at this time. The public hearing was closed. Following discussion, it was moved by Board Member Parrish and seconded by Board Member Falcone to recommend that the City Council: 1. Determine that Planning Case P20-0074 (Historic Designation) for the designation of the former Freeland Tractor Company Showroom building as a City Landmark, is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Rule) and 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment), as the proposal will have no significant effect on the environment, identifies the structure as a cultural resource, and preserves the historic character of a cultural resource; and 2. Approve Planning Case P20-0074 (Historic Designation), based on the facts of findings, and designate the Freeland Tractor Company Showroom building as a City Landmark. Chair Lech advised of the appeal period.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None



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DISCUSSION CALENDAR

PLANNING CASE P19-0487 – CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – FORMATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE, 4674 BEACON WAY, WARD 1

To consider the formation of a Subcommittee of the Cultural Heritage Board to work with the applicant on the architecture of the residence main level, two-car garage and basement expansion proposed to replace the demolished non-contributing residence in the Mount Rubidoux Historic District. Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer, updated the Board with regard to the actions taken by the City Council. Randy Neal, applicant, stated that he was not aware that the City Council postponed the dates. He stated he did not have confidence in the Cultural Heritage Board. He noted that a subcommittee was formed seven months ago and yet here we are today. He feels he has been strung out and treated unfairly.

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner, commented that staff has been in touch with Mr. Neal and his architect during this process. They were informed regarding the Land Use Committee and City Council meetings, at which this item would be heard. No one foresaw what would happen with COVID-19 and in fact, staff had anticipated meeting with Cultural Heritage Board in March. All Board and Commission meetings were cancelled, and this is the first Cultural Heritage Board meeting that has occurred since March. The applicant/architect were also informed that staff was requesting an extension of time from the City Council, knowing that the Cultural Heritage Board would be unable to meet in March and May, which were the deadlines set in February 2020. In terms of a guarantee that the Cultural Heritage Board work with you at this point, this is at the request of the City Council. If the Cultural Heritage Board cannot make a decision within the two (2) month period, it will be forwarded to the City Council for a determination either in approval or denial.

Mr. Neal indicated that he didn't see where it said that the City Council pushed the deadlines out. He asked for written documentation.

Mr. Watson stated he would provide that to Mr. Neal.

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown clarified that the Land Use Committee is a subcommittee of the City Council which makes recommendations to the City Council. After the Land Use Committee meeting, it was the City Council who actually set up the deadlines in March and May. Again no one foresaw what would happen and unfortunately, here we are



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now trying to get the process started again. She noted again that this would return to the Cultural Heritage Board in two months.

Mr. Neal reiterated that 7 months ago the Cultural Heritage Board did the exact same thing to him and here we are again. Why does he have to come here again when he was previously ignored. Why can't he return to the Land Use Committee? He stated he had no trust in the Cultural Heritage Board.

Anthony Beaumon, Deputy City Attorney, while not speaking for Board, he stated that based on the rules and regulations, this is the process. These are the tools available and it is up to applicant whether they want to engage with the Board. With regard to the applicant's question as to why he should participate, the City Council referred this item back to the Cultural Heritage Board. The applicant has the right to participate or not.

Mr. Neal thanked staff for their comments. He stated he was not getting a clear answer. He hoped the Board appreciated his position, dragging through this for two more months.

Board Member Falcone stated that what is important to acknowledge is that the Board is governed by this process. While he does understand the applicant's frustration, the Board is merely a link in a chain of many. Although not the initial question, it is important to acknowledge the process. Secondly, with regard to your confidence in this Board the fact of matter is, you own property in historic district. The Cultural Heritage Board exists and is appointed by City Council to make decisions on all things related to historic preservation in the city. Since the Board is appointed by the City Council, we have their confidence and we are the Board that oversees historic districts. He noted that everyone is going to subcommittee with good faith. We are all adults here able to go into this discussion in good faith acknowledging our purpose to ensure the best possible end result for this historic district is achieved. He felt that it would behoove the applicant to be part of this process because it would create better project which would affect the historic district. All property and homeowners in an historic district have a responsibility and Board seeks to ensure that responsibility is upheld. He reassured the applicant that he could proceed with confidence knowing that they will all work together in good faith to make best possible result. We all have the common goal. The reason we are here today is that the Board is following the City Council's direction and taking their lead. He asked that everyone move forward instead of rehashing the past.

There were no public comments.



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Following discussion, a motion was made by Board Member Parrish and seconded by Board Member Carter to nominate Board Members Falcone, Gamble and Parrish to participate on the subcommittee and work with the applicant.

Board Member Brown inquired if there would be a process for neighborhood involvement. He felt this was critical because this district is one of the most overwhelmingly historic neighborhoods in Riverside and there are strong feelings among the neighbors as to the nature of this project.

Mr. Beaumon suggested naming an alternate to the subcommittee in case one of the members must step down so that there is no lost time.

Board Member Parrish agreed an alternate was a good suggestion. She asked whether any of the nominated members would like to step down and allow Board Member Brown the opportunity to serve on the subcommittee.

Board Member Brown stated he was comfortable with the subcommittee as stated. He would be happy to provide input as a neighbor and would prefer not to be on the subcommittee.

Mr. Watson stated that with regard to public comment on the project. The public will have opportunity to comment when this comes back to the Cultural Heritage Board for final review.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTENTION: None

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown reminded the Board if they wanted to appoint an alternate member to the subcommittee.



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Board Member Carter motioned to nominate Steve Lech as an alternate in case one of the subcommittee members is unable to participate for any reason. Seconded by Board Member Parrish.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTENTION: None

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORT – October 2018 thru September, 2019
Mr. Watson noted that as a Certified Local Government, the City of Riverside is required to submit an annual report to the State Office of Historic Preservation documenting the preservation activities that occurred during the report period. During the COVID-19 pandemic the State Office of Historic Preservation has waived the requirements for the Cultural Heritage Board to review the draft report prior to submission. The report was submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation on April 9, 2020. If the Board requests modifications, staff will forward the changes to the State Office of Historic Preservation as an updated submission. Staff recommended the Board provide input, receive and file and support the Certified Local Government annual report.

Chair Lech noted there were no public comments and inquired if the Board had any questions or concerns. There were no comments from the Board.

A Motion was made by Board Member Brown to receive and file the report as submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation. Seconded by Board Member Cuevas.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0 Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTENTION: None



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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 February 19, 2020, were approved as presented.

PLANNING COMMISSION ATTENDANCE – The Cultural Heritage Board excused the absence of Board Member Brown from the meeting of February 19, 2020 due to business.

Motion made by Board Member Parrish and seconded by Board Member Gamble to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent, 0Abstention

AYES: Tobin, Gamble, Cuevas, Ferguson, Carter, Falcone, Brown, Parrish, Lech

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTION: None

COMMUNICATIONS

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS AND UPDATE FROM CITY PLANNER

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown updated the Board on future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. to the meeting of June 17, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

The minutes were approved as presented at the July 15, 2020 meeting.