



**MEETING MINUTES
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
JANUARY 19, 2016**

The Historic Landmarks Commission of the City of Palestine, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting on January 19, 2016 at Palestine City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people:

Present: Julie Abston (Chair), Mickie Lamberth, Cindy Millichamp, Robb Stewart, Linda Williams

Staff: Jacob Morris

A. CALL TO ORDER

Julie Abston called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:00 PM

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Consider the minutes for the September HLC Meeting.

Commission approved the minutes. Commissioner Williams moved, Stewart seconded.

D. INTRODUCTION OF HLC APPOINTMENTS

1. Introduction of members

Appointment Mickie Lamberth was introduced and welcomed by members.

E. INTRODUCTION OF POTENTIAL TAX INCENTIVES

1. Discussion and possible action regarding existing historic preservation economic incentives to historic property owners, and possible future changes

Historic Preservation officer Jacob Morris reported that after review of existing local tax incentives and comparison with other Texas communities' incentives, that it may benefit the community to re-evaluate and possibly recommend changes to existing incentives. He explained that the existing ordinance was written prior to adoption of historic districts, and since the current incentives focus on individual landmarks, the only way to access the incentives for those in the districts is to pursue redundant protections for their property. He also commented that recommending some modifications may help to better encourage basic maintenance of existing historic properties. Commission voted to pursue evaluation of tax incentive changes. Commissioner Williams volunteered to work with HPO on this, and requested that he gather sample ordinances and then the Commission could call a work session.

F. DISCUSSION OF ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. Discussion and possible action regarding oral history program.

Commissioner Millichamp and HPO summarized developments. A recent meeting with representatives from the Stephen F Austin Center for Regional Heritage Research provided some insight. The center could provide digital storage and archival support for oral history recordings, but had no available assistance regarding transcription. Acceptable practices and standards for recording were summarized.



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G. Certificate of Appropriateness application 16-01

1. Consider application from the property owner at 816 Tennessee, a property within the Northside Historic District, to enclose part of the side portion of the wrap around porch. Historic Preservation Officer presented a proposal to enclose the side portion of the contributing residence, as the applicant was not available and requested the courtesy. Northside Historic District resident Judy Burgess spoke in opposition to the request, stating that the change would hurt the historic character of the neighborhood. Commissioners discussed the application. After discussion, Chair Julie Abston, citing the portion of the guidelines which state, "Porches should not be enclosed...as doing so alters the historic character of a dwelling, especially when the porch is on the front of a historic building or is otherwise visible from the right-of-way", moved to deny the application as written, and encourage the property owner to move any proposed addition to the rear of the house, which would be consistent with the guidelines. The vote to deny the application as written was unanimous.

H. STAFF AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Summary of events and activities since previous reports and upcoming notifications.

HPO Jacob Morris reported that the state CLG Coordinator, Madeline Clites, visited on December 8th, and provided a public presentation and training about the role and economic impact of CLG's. HPO reported that since joining, Palestine has been awarded over \$75,000 in CLG incentives for Historic Preservation related initiatives. HPO reported that the Mount Vernon AME, one of Preservation Texas' most endangered properties, has completed emergency stabilization of the building, and has held a fundraiser. HPO reported that Palestine has been selected as one of the pilot communities for the THC Downtown Online Inventory Project. He also reported that last year's Downtown Survey Update was publicized in the Medallion Magazine.

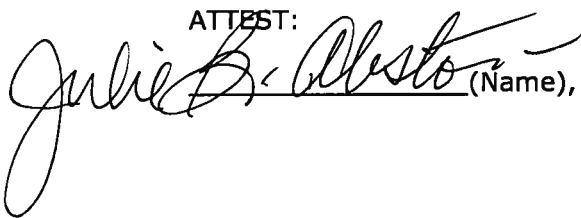
I. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No agenda items

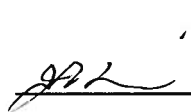
J. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Julie B. Abston in cursive.

(Name), Chairman

Handwritten signature of Jacob Morris in cursive.

(Jacob Morris, PhD, HPO)