

MINUTES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

February 8, 2023

Minutes of the regular hearing of the Historic Preservation commission, of the City of Tempe, which was held in hybrid format in person at City Council Chambers, 31 East 5th Street, Tempe, AZ, and virtually through WebEx.

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

Present:

Staff:

Kyle Woodson	Zachary Lechner, Historic Preservation Officer
Dave Fackler	Ambika Adhikari, Principal Planner, Com Dev
Gregory Larson	Jennifer Daniels, Admirative Assistant II, Com Dev
Elizabeth Gilbert	Jeff Tamulevich, Director, Com Dev
Laurene Montero	
Kiyomi Kurooka	
Reylynne Williams	
Brenda Abney, <i>ex-officio</i> member	

- 1) **Call to Audience:** Persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter may do so at the discretion of the Chair. However, Arizona Open Meeting Law limits Commission discussion to matters listed on the posted agenda. Other topics may be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

HPO Dr. Lechner read in a comment card that was submitted on November 9, 2022. This is the first meeting where it can be read since the last HPC Meeting was in October 2022. The comment is in support of a Double Butte Cemetery noise reduction solution. The comment was submitted by Ms. Lisa Zyriek of Tempe, Arizona, who is a member of the City's Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board. Ms. Zyriek emailed City Council to encourage them to pursue an earthen berm for the east side of the Double Butte Cemetery.

- 2) **Voting of the Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Larson stated that on page 3, last paragraph, last part the sentence says, "Vice Chair Woodson." There is the same error in the first sentence last paragraph on page 3, it states "Vice Chair Woodson." Commissioner Williams stated that on page 3 in the top paragraph, starting with "Dr. Lechner," there is a comma, and it should be a period.

Motion by Vice Chair Fackler to approve Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2022, as amended with the 3 corrections mentioned: second by Commissioner Larson. Motion passed on **7-0** vote.

Ayes: Kyle Woodson, Dave Fackler, Kiyomi Kurooka, Laurene Montero, Reylynne Williams, Gregory Larson, and Elizabeth Gilbert

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Jim Garrison and Chris Garraty

- 3) **Approval of Agenda**

Approval of agenda by Chair Woodson.

- 4) Neighborhood meeting regarding request for a zoning map amendment from R1-6 zoning district to R1-6 with an Historic Overlay Designation for the McKemy-Riggs House property, located at 135 West Bonita Way. Mark Vinson, who is applying on behalf of property owner Patricia Riggs, will facilitate the neighborhood meeting. **(PL230011)**

Mr. Mark Vinson gave a presentation and facilitated the neighborhood meeting. Mr. Vinson is an architect with expertise in historic preservation. Patricia Riggs is the property owner at 135 West Bonita Way. Ms. Riggs has retained Mr. Vinson to represent her in the designation process. The McKemy-Riggs property is located in the University Estates neighborhood, north and east of Mill and Broadway in Tempe. It was once known as Professors' Row. The McKemy-Riggs House is a single-story, ranch-style, single-family dwelling (with two-story addition) constructed in 1949-1950. The house was designed and built by R. Lloyd Williams, a Tempe designer/builder residing nearby. The original property owners, for whom the house was designed and built were Harvey and Marge McKemy. The McKemys remained in the home until 1980. When the McKemys passed away, they had no children, so it was inherited by distant nieces and nephews, who put the property up for sale. Patricia Riggs, a Tempe native purchased the property in 1981 and has resided there ever since. The University Estates subdivision was platted in 1949. It consists of relatively large (for that date) single-story, single-family, ranch-style houses of either red brick or concrete block construction. It has large, flood-irrigated lots with grass lawns, curvilinear street plan and rolled curbs and gutters throughout, with sidewalks along Broadway Lane only. The house R. Lloyd Williams designed and built for the McKemys was in the early to mid-period of ranch style, vaguely California ranch in appearance, featuring details such as 8x4x16 concrete block walls, double-pitched roof forms with asphalt roofing, exposed rafter tails, and steel casement windows. Exposed redwood sheathing and beams were employed for the porch roof. The interior features lath and plaster walls with covered ceilings and polished concrete floors. The overall composition when viewed from the street consists of a front porch and rectangular living space. Two modest additions were made to the rear (south) by the McKemys. Later additions, including a two-story bedroom/storage wing with basement to accommodate her mother, have also been added by Ms. Riggs, resulting in the current total area of 2,990 square feet. Mr. McKemy is the most beloved and revered educator in Tempe history. As a teacher, principal, and superintendent, as well as a community volunteer, he touched the lives of thousands of Tempe children.

Chair Woodson called to the audience for comments or questions.

Mr. Jon Austin, Tempe, spoke. He lives across the street from the McKemy-Riggs property. Mr. Austin stated that he is not in favor giving the home historic zoning. One reason is there are many historic buildings in Tempe, and they are very beautiful and have historical and architectural merit that warrants them being deemed historical. The McKemy-Riggs home is not as exciting architecturally. It is more like a box with a front porch, with a 2-story box added on to the back. If you are standing in front of the home, it is not a beautiful architectural site. It would be better for the neighborhood and property values if a future owner were allowed to change the home and make it more architecturally appealing. Mr. Austin said that Tempe has a lot of houses in his neighborhood that have changed, and a lot of them have been changed for the better. It can make the neighborhood much more exciting.

Chair Woodson called to online attendees wishing to make any comments on this item.

Mr. Vic Linoff (online) stated that after hearing Mr. Vinson's analysis of the property, he believes it does merit receiving designation.

Chair Woodson called on Commissioners for questions.

Commissioner Larson asked Mr. Vinson if there are any other properties in the University Estates neighborhood that have historic overlay zoning? Mr. Vinson stated not to his knowledge. Dr. Lechner also agreed that there are currently no other homes in the neighborhood with an historic overlay; this home would be the first. Commissioner Larson asked Mr. Vinson if he had an idea when the structure's exterior

brick was painted. Mr. Vinson stated possibly from day 1. The concrete block was never intended not to be painted. Vice Chair Fackler asked Mr. Vinson if the architecture of the house (ranch style) is significant or if the person associated with the house is significant? Mr. Vinson stated that the most significant aspect is the person associated with the home. The architectural significance is just that it is an example of a type of style that flourished in Tempe at that point in time. It is not something above and beyond what other homes would be at that time. Chair Woodson asked Mr. Vinson if the University Estates has an official historic designation. Mr. Vinson stated there is no designation. Chair Woodson asked if there is a current proposal to do that. Mr. Vinson stated not that he is aware of one. Chair Woodson asked if the owner of the home intends to seek a listing in the National Register. Mr. Vinson stated the owner has not expressed that interest. Chair Woodson asked if Mr. Vinson is aware of any other homes in Tempe with similar ranch style/age listed on the Tempe Register? Mr. Vinson stated one example would be the Roosevelt Historic District, the entire neighborhood on Roosevelt Street east of Farmer Avenue. They are all homes of similar construction and time period. That neighborhood is on the Tempe Register. The entire neighborhood is listed, not individual homes. There are individual homes in the Tempe Register-designated homes in the Maple-Ash neighborhood that also fit similar criteria as the McKemy-Riggs home. Mr. Vinson stated that to his knowledge there are homes with similar criteria but none with the association of a significant person like the McKemy-Riggs house. Chair Woodson asked what year the 2-story addition was added and if there a review process for the Commission at that time. Mr. Vinson stated the addition was made in 1998 and a building permit was obtained. There was no review needed by a commission because there was no historic designation, and it is a single-family residence. Chair Woodson asked if Ms. Riggs built the addition in a similar or compatible style. Mr. Vinson stated that he believes that was her intent, so you would be able to see what was built in 1949 and what was added in 1998. Chair Woodson asked if there was anything in the Tempe Character Area studies that provides a framework for attempting to get individual homes listed in the local Register. Mr. Vinson stated that the studies do point out the value to the community of the flood-irrigated neighborhoods and the preservation of the distinctive characteristics of the neighborhoods. Principle Planner Ambika Adhikari stated that the Character Area plans do have a historic preservation section that contain general encouragement to preserve a property the way it is if it is historic, and if people qualify, they can move forward with the designations of these properties. Commissioner Larson asked what is the manner of construction on the 2nd story addition in the rear? Mr. Vinson stated it is concrete block on the lower level and framed on the upper level. Commissioner Larson asked how high the concrete blocks go up and whether it is the same block as the rest of the house. Mr. Vinson stated 8 feet and, yes, the block is similar. Above the block on the upper level, it is shiplap wood siding. Commissioner Larson asked if the addition has a basement. Mr. Vinson stated, yes, the addition is 2 stories and includes a basement. Including the basement and other addition, it doubles the size of the original home.

Dr. Lechner explained that after the completion of the neighborhood meeting, the next steps will be the commissions and City Council review process for the zoning map amendment. Per City Code, there must be at least 30 days in between the neighborhood meeting and the 1st commission meeting, which will be the HPC. Action on whether to recommend approval of the zoning map amendment will occur at the April HPC meeting. If the HPC recommends approval, the item will move on to the DRC for approval in May. If the DRC recommends approving the request, it will then go to City Council for 2 hearings, both held in June. If approved by City Council, it would be the 54th addition to the Tempe Historic Property Register.

5) Update on the Gonzales-Martinez House property, located near the intersection of 1st Street and Farmer Avenue.

Dr. Lechner provided the update. AZ State Parks and Trails awarded the City of Tempe a \$150,000 Heritage Fund Historic Preservation Grant for repair and rehabilitation of the Gonzales-Martinez House. That will serve as a match for the City's previously allocated CIP funding for rehabilitation of the site. On January 11, 2023, the City issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a mixed-use redevelopment project on a previously state-owned parcel directly to the west and the City-owned parcel directly to its east on which the Gonzales-Martinez House sits. The RFQ was issued after 1st and Farmer LLC, an entity associated with ongoing redevelopment activities along Farmer Avenue, purchased the state-owned parcel on November 22, 2022, for \$2.75 million after submitting the lone bid at an online state lands auction. The RFQ calls for preservation of the home and for the successful developer to provide the City with a façade

conservation easement on the Gonzales-Martinez House. 1st and Farmer LLC desires to purchase the City-owned parcel as well, including the Gonzales-Martinez House, and to redevelop the combined parcels. The full plan for the site has not been developed yet. An item will go before Council on February 16, 2023, requesting an approval for the City Manager to enter into negotiations with 1st and Farmer LLC to redevelop the site. If approved, in order to move forward, specifics would need to be worked out in the development agreement, including the developer's plans for ensuring the Gonzales-Martinez House's rehabilitation. The developer has already enlisted Robert (Bob) Graham of Motley Design Group to assess the current condition of the home.

Vice Chair Fackler referred to the site map included in the RFQ, specifically the magenta-colored area that the City owns. There is a waterline that runs through Tempe Beach Park and the berm. Vice Chair Fackler asked if that would be included in the redevelopment. If so, it will need a bridge over the line. The map shows the additional area to be included in the RFQ, south of 1st Street at the southeast corner of 1st and Farmer. Is that in the area proposed for the development agreement, Vice Chair Fackler asked? Dr. Lechner stated that, yes, that area is to be included. That was previously state-owned land that went along with the parcel that was purchased. Vice Chair Fackler asked if the developer already owns a piece of that land. Dr. Lechner stated that he does not know if they already owned a piece of it or were given state permission to use it. Dr. Lechner stated that he has not heard a discussion about the waterline or development in the area north of the site.

Chair Woodson asked Dr. Lechner and other City staff how the State-owned parcel just all of the sudden was purchased since the City was already interested in that land. Dr. Lechner stated that it is hard to say what happened. This was something that the Economic Development Department was monitoring. There may have been an issue with pulling the money together. Dr. Lechner learned about the auction shortly after it happened. Other people within the City were aware the auction was happening and a decision was made not to bid on the property. Dr. Lechner stated that the state held a public auction. Public auctions are publicly advertised over multiple weeks. Chair Woodson stated that it is not like the City did not know this property has been there since 1880, and this was a major and important property with money already put into it.. Chair Woodson said that the State was probably not requiring a \$2.75 million offer. Chair Woodson asked about guarantees that the property and the building will be preserved. Dr. Lechner stated that in the RFQ the City is requiring preservation of the building and is requiring the developer to provide the City with a façade conservation easement on the building, which means they cannot demolish it. Chair Woodson asked if the property that the Gonzales-Martinez House sits on is still City-owned? Dr. Lechner stated, yes, it is. Chair Woodson asked if the City was going to sell their part of the property as part of this deal to a developer. Dr. Lechner said that is correct. Chair Woodson asked how the City and HPC can be guaranteed that the property cannot just be purchased by a developer who then does whatever they want. Dr. Lechner stated that would be part of the development agreement. The City would work out a development agreement with the Economic Development Department, something that Dr. Lechner would be consulted on. The development agreement is a legally binding obligation that is approved by City Council. Chair Woodson stated that he wants to express his discontent on this item due to it happening out of the blue and happening between the last HPC Meeting and now. Chair Woodson stated that the HPC members did not have an opportunity to review the RFQ but were able to review the RFQ for the Hayden Flour Mill. Chair Woodson stated that there was no discussion about this property being improved until last year, when there was money allocated to the rehabilitation of the house and now we are here. Chair Woodson would like to make sure that Dr. Lechner and whoever else is making decisions on this makes sure that this is going to be a provision and abided by and that the Commission has the opportunity to comment on it. Dr. Lechner stated that he was the person who made sure the historic preservation provisions were in the RFQ. The RFQ was fast-tracked so there was not an option to bring it forward to the HPC. When the decision was made to finalize the RFQ and send it out, there was about 2 weeks in between the issuance of the RFQ and the deadline for the RFQ. In that situation, there was not enough time to pull together a Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Fackler stated that possibly he could give a different perspective having gone through the development agreement process many times for the City of Tempe. There is another way to look at this. Allowing the developer to buy the property out from under the City may be a conscious decision, with the

City allowing the developer to spend \$2.75 million on a piece a land that is essentially undevelopable without the property that the City owns. This possibly creates a \$3 million value for the City-owned land. Vice Chair Fackler stated that this may have improved the City's bargaining position, especially as it relates to the historic structure. This gives the City a lot of money to ensure the house is rehabilitated. Now that the price of the land has been established, the development that will have to take place on this property will have to be significant. It will not be a simple low-rise with surface parking. It is going to be a high-rise or mid-rise with parking structure included. The Gonzales-Martinez House will sit on this property and occupy at least a quarter of the land the developer will be getting from the City, assuming the deal is met. Vice Chair Fackler told Dr. Lechner he will need to be on top of this project and in the loop. Vice Chair Fackler would like to see the house be a reuse that will give it an economic value while it continues to be preserved into the future. We do not need another museum.

Dr. Lechner stated that when he first heard about the item, he thought it was not good but then thought it could be used as an opportunity. If the City purchased the State-owned property, they would have to figure out what to do with it and carry through with it. This way if you have a development agreement in which the developer provides the City with a façade conservation easement, potentially if the developer asks for tax breaks in the form of a GPLET, there is going to have to be some type of public benefit that comes back to the City. There is potential that the developer will need to kick in additional funds for the preservation of the home. There is also a possibility that it may go the way of the Hayden House, which was not always owned by the City; rather, it was gifted to the City by the developer under the points of the development agreement. Dr. Lechner referred to Vice Chair Fackler's comment about monitoring the item. Dr. Lechner assured the Commission he will be monitoring the Gonzales-Martinez House situation.

Chair Woodson thanked Dr. Lechner for the application that was submitted for the Heritage Fund. It seems that as a body that is intended to be the advisory board for the City, and this is a one-of-a-kind structure from the very beginnings of the city. This is not an average historic everyday building; it's a very important structure.

Dr. Lechner stated that he understands Chair Woodson's concerns and appreciates his comments.

Commissioner Kurooka asked Dr. Lechner where in the process this item currently was. Dr. Lechner stated there was 1 response to the RFQ. The only respondent was 1st and Farmer LLC. The review committee reviewed the applications and had a meeting with the developer. A request for the City to enter negotiations with the developer for a development agreement will be moving to a Council meeting this month. Kurooka asked in regard to the proposal, is it open to the public to see the concept? Did the developer say what the plans were? Dr. Lechner stated there questions posed to the developer to confirm that they understand the obligation to preserve the home, and the developer made clear they do. The developer understands there is a façade conservation easement requirement. The developer is not far enough along in the process to have site plans or anything like that. At this point it is still very early. There has been talk of high-rise residential. That will be worked out via the development agreement. The Gonzales-Martinez House is a vital building to rehabilitate.

Commissioner Montero stated that her first thought was how can we be sure they will go forward with the preservation of the house. Through the development agreement, answered Dr. Lechner. Commissioner Montero said she looked forward to seeing that when it's available.

Commissioner Larson asked what the status of the development agreement is. Has it been drafted yet? Dr. Lechner stated, no, not yet. Commissioner Larson asked if the HPC can be involved and provide input as to the terms of that agreement before it is finalized and while it is still in negotiations. Dr. Lechner will ask that question, make that suggestion, and note the Commission's desire to be involved. Commissioner Larson stated that the Commission should see drafts before it is finalized and have the opportunity to provide input on the terms that will be critical in preserving the home. Commissioner Larson stated he is concerned about the thought of building a high-rise structure on this property due to the Gonzales-Martinez House and its current condition. A high-rise will require a substantial amount of groundwork very close to the foundation of the home. It seems the house could just fall. It seems fragile. In the description of site section of the RFQ,

there is a substantial amount of discussion on the idea of relocating the house. Is the developer considering that? Dr. Lechner stated that was a discussion about that early on, even before the RFQ went out. Dr. Lechner stated he was asked if it would be possible to relocate the house off-site. He stated, no, it would not be possible for a couple of reasons. The first reason being the high cost to take it apart brick by brick and then put it together again. Second, it would destroy the historical integrity of the home. The relocation idea is no longer under consideration. The home will have to be preserved in place. Commissioner Larson states the paragraph in the RFQ makes it look like it is possible to disassemble, relocate, and reassemble the house somewhere else and that the developer may have the option. Dr. Lechner stated that is no longer an option. Commissioner Larson asked why the RFQ was fast-tracked? Dr. Lechner stated that is not something he is privy to, and it was not an HPO decision. Dr. Lechner stated that there was a desire to move forward quickly on this item.

Vice Chair Fackler asked what the timetable is for the grant. And if the amount of current funding for the home was \$258,336 total? Dr. Lechner stated that within 6 months of signing the Heritage Fund grant agreement, the City must hire someone to help rehabilitate the building. The agreement was signed by Dr. Lechner a few days ago. Within 18 months, construction repair work must begin. The project must be completed within 3 years. It can be extended if necessary. The money allocated for this project is a little more. Years ago, the City had allocated a little over \$108,000 to assist in the stabilization of the adobe portion. The City still has that money. Reggie McKay of Adobe Technology stated that it will probably cost around \$150,000 for stabilization. Dr. Lechner recently requested an additional \$50,000 in CIP funding for stabilization. It has not been approved yet. Last year, the City allocated \$200,000, anticipating adding to the match of what it thought would be a \$300,000 Heritage Fund grant. Unfortunately, the state only allocated half of what it did last year for the Heritage Fund. The City received this year's maximum award of \$150,000. If the City receives the additional \$50,000 requested by Dr. Lechner, the City would have approximately \$500,000 for the Gonzales-Martinez House stabilization and rehabilitation. If it costs more, that is where the developer would come in and assist in that process. Per the RFQ, the developer would be in charge of facilitating the rehabilitation in consultation with HPO and HPC. Vice Chair Fackler asked if the developer has closed with the State on the property and if the developer currently owns the land. Dr. Lechner said, yes, he believes so.

6) Discussion of possible HPC participation in the 2023 Hayden's Ferry Days Festival.

Dr. Lechner explained to the Commission what the Hayden's Ferry Days Festival is. This is a yearly event in Tempe celebrating Tempe's early history. This year is being held on Sunday, March 5, from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm at the Tempe History Museum, located at 809 East Southern Avenue. One of the event's organizers, Vic Linoff, is on the line for any questions Commissioners may have. Dr. Lechner asked if any of the HPC members would be interested in participating in the event. Volunteers would set up a table and discuss with visitors' whatever Commissioners would like to talk about. Tonight, Dr. Lechner said the Commission is discussing whether or not the HPC would like to participate, what participation would look like, and who would like to volunteer to take a shift. Dr. Lechner stated he could pull together some images or plans of ongoing developments in the city that are of a historic nature.

Vice Chair Fackler stated he likes the idea of it being interactive with plans and images. There are a number of interesting projects, including the Hayden Flour Mill and the Butler (Gray) property.

Dr. Lechner stated he has been in communication with someone who is under contract for the Butler (Gray) property. He is very interested in the historic aspect of the home and is looking to preserve the home.

Chair Woodson and Vice Chair Fackler have already volunteered for the festival. Commissioner Montero stated she would be willing to take a shift as long as there is a format for her to follow. Dr. Lechner said if any other Commissioners would like to participate, please follow up with him this week.

7) Chair / Staff Updates

Dr. Lechner updated the commission on the Watson's Flowers site. Not much has changed in the last

couple of months. Dr. Lechner did meet onsite with SHPO architect Susan Lawson last December. SHPO is going to be making a determination of eligibility in terms of whether or not the property is eligible for the National Register. Mark Vinson has been contracted by Commonwealth Heritage Group to update the historic property inventory forms for Watson's Flowers building. That is what SHPO uses to make the determination of eligibility. Once the plans are submitted, the determination should come quickly. Chair Woodson asked if the parcel that Watson's Flowers is located on is part of the upcoming redevelopment that is located on 3 parcels? Dr. Lechner stated no, this was a different parcel.

Dr. Lechner updated the commission on the Hayden Flour Mill, located at 119 South Mill Avenue. Dr. Lechner said he provided feedback on the City's proposed deal points for a development agreement with Venue/Sunbelt (developers) to guide their proposed redevelopment of the Hayden Flour Mill and Silos site. Based on the presentation the Commission heard from Venue/Sunbelt in April 2022, they are planning to list the property in the National Register, consulting with Tribes on trailhead restoration and viewsheds, restoring building elevations to their original form, and using minimal interventions in updating the Flour Mill for commercial use. The developer is now inventorying the various equipment in the building. They are looking to take it out and repurpose/refurbish as much of it as they can. New structures will be subordinate in height and scale to Tempe Butte, the Mill, and the Silos.

Dr. Lechner asked whether the Commission would like an update before or after the development agreement is completed. Chair Woodson stated before. Dr. Lechner said he will speak with the developer. Vice Chair Fackler asked if the presentation can include basic deal points that might point to the historic preservation aspects. Dr. Lechner will request.

Dr. Lechner updated the commission on the HP Award. It was advertised on the City website and social media. Commissioners are encouraged to make nominations but shouldn't feel obligated if they're not of a high quality. The 2023 Neighborhood Celebration Event will be held on Saturday April 1, 2023, from 8:30 am-10:30 am with a 9:00 am awards ceremony. The Neighborhood Services staff encourages all commissioners and board members to attend. Chair Woodson requested Dr. Lechner email the weblink to the Commissioners again. The nomination can be for a project or person.

Dr. Lechner updated the Commission on service terms expiring on March 31 for the following: Commissioner Jim Garrison, Commissioner Chris Garraty, and Commissioner Liz Gilbert. The 3 members are all At-Large Members. Tribal Member Williams has agreed to serve another term. Professional Member Woodson has agreed to serve another term. Three At-Large replacements will need to be found. Dr. Lechner has been working with the City Clerk's Office and a Public Information Officer to solicit nominations. Chair Woodson and Dr. Lechner have been going through the nominations and have identified some very good candidates. Dr. Lechner said having 3 At-Large Members rotate off at the same time is not ideal. He is putting forward a resolution at the March 2nd regular City Council to request that the new At-Large Members serve terms of 1 year, 2 years, or 3 years. This will correct the term expiration imbalance for now. The new members serving non-3-year terms will be allowed to be considered for 2 additional full 3-year terms. Dr. Lechner will be writing a code text amendment for the HPO and the City Clerk's Office to initiate this staggering process in the future without requiring Council action.

Dr. Lechner updated the Commission on the Historic Eligible Marriott House. There was a new demolition permit on the Marriott House that Dr. Lechner discussed at an earlier meeting. Dr. Lechner reached out to the new owner of the house to suggest some alternatives. They did allow Dr. Lechner and Planner Robbie Aaron to photograph the exterior and interior of the home before it was demolished. The land will be redeveloped to build townhomes.

8) Current Events / Announcements / Future Agenda Items
Member Announcements
Staff Announcements

Chair Woodson announced that one of the projects his department is involved in is working with the City of Phoenix and City of Tempe to develop some educational signage about the Akimel O'Odham homeland .

One of the signs is about Tempe Butte and has been installed at the Streetcar stop on Rio Salado, just east of Mill Avenue. The sign talks about the butte and the traditional name for it and some stories about it. There are some other areas where signs have also been installed.

Dr. Lechner stated that for several months he has been working with City staff to put together a design and text for a new plaque that will go up on the Old Mill Avenue Bridge to commemorate the state bridge engineer Ralph Hoffman, who designed the bridge in the early 20th century. Hopefully, it will be installed in the next few months.

Mr. Adhikari updated the Commission on Tempe Tomorrow: General Plan 2050. Staff is now working with the Community Working Group. A draft of the Plan should be expected sometime in May. The commission will have an opportunity to review the Plan.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Woodson.

Hearing adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Prepared by: Jennifer Daniels, Administrative Assistant
Reviewed by: Zachary Lechner, Historic Preservation Officer

jd:zl