

**CITY OF BENSON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M.**

**A regular meeting of the Benson Historic Preservation Commission was held on
January 19, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.
At the Benson City Hall,
120 W. 6th Street, Benson, AZ 85602**

MINUTES

Chair Ruth Wilson opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

Members present: Ruth Wilson, Joanne Sturgeon, Irma Bernal, and Phyllis Little, and Gus Figueroa.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Michelle Johnson, City employee, as well as Alwina Fraga, and Phyllis Pralgo, were present. In addition, Janet Parkhurst, nomination consultant for historic properties, and her assistant, architect Brian Rollins, were present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Minutes of the November 17, 2012 meeting were approved. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Hotel Arnold Report: Ruth Wilson advised Mr. Deutsch planned to attend today, but he didn't show. Nothing has changed that she is aware of, and the property continues to be for sale.

2. Re-review of some properties for nomination: We were privileged to have Janet Parkhurst and her assistant Brian Rollins present. They were here to discuss how we should go about the nomination process for re-review of five properties to be added to the National Historic Register. The five include the Candy Store, Saddle Shop, Antique Shop, Mark's Furniture, and the Horseshoe Restaurant—all on East 4th Street between Patagonia and Huachuca Streets. Janet explained the cost is now stated as a maximum of \$2500 per property, and would probably actually work out to be closer to \$1750. Each building nominated would need a context, i.e., a history of Benson, included. Once received by their office, the nominations will be carefully reviewed. Ruth Wilson stated that the grant soon to be available is a 60/40 match (State/City). The City of Benson will give us approximately \$300 now, another \$300 in July 2013, and another \$300 in July 2014. Jim Cox with the City of Benson has discretionary authority. However, per Michelle Johnson, both Jim Cox and the City Manager will be leaving by the end of May or June, so we need Janet Parkhurst's written proposal as soon as possible. Janet stated she would probably have the proposal to the City by the middle of next week. Ruth stated that if a grant is available, we have until mid March of this year to get our request in.

Ruth further stated that both Mark's Furniture and High Desert Antiques are a go, but the Candy Store needs additional research due to the encroachment on the building façade (which has been there at least fifty years). We need an idea of the total cost per property before we proceed further.

Ruth also stated she has spoken with Vivia Strang about nominating the five buildings discussed today as a District, to save some paperwork. Vivia is doing some research. Janet agreed that those five would be a good multiple property, and will also research it. She will look at doing it both ways, individually and as a district. Ruth advised that the upcoming grant must be completed by September of 2014. Janet will take the time limitations into account.

Ruth explained to our guests that responsibility for putting Arizona historic buildings on the National Historic Register belongs to the Arizona State Parks Division (under the authority of the National Department of the Interior). We, the Benson Historic Preservation Commission are under the City of Benson, so acquire grants under its authority. She further explained that in addition to the honor of owning an historic building, there were certain monetary advantages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. 7th Street Cemetery: Liz Brenner not present so nothing new reported on the Cemetery.
2. Apache Park Project: Ruth stated that she took the architect drawings, photos, and written information to the local newspaper to apprise them of what we were attempting to accomplish with the Park. Michelle stated that the Lions Park was a City priority, whereas Apache Park was not. The City has recently distributed survey questionnaires to our citizens, asking for their wishes and/or priorities regarding City improvements to benefit them and their families. Discussion followed regarding what the Commission has accomplished in improving Apache Park, and what we hope to accomplish in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Potential new grants: There are none except as discussed in "Old Business" above for nomination of the five properties on East 4th Street. When the grants are available, Ruth, Irma, and Phyllis will work on the application process together. Ruth has asked Michelle Johnson and the Commission members to advise her if they learn of the grant availability first.
2. Contact with Dana Cole of the San Pedro News regarding Benson's Historic buildings and districts, and our work on Apache Park: As stated above, Ruth has done so recently.
3. New Members: Both Alwina Fraga and Phyllis Pralgo may be interested in joining the Benson Historic Preservation Commission. Phyllis requested information on the funding of the Commission. Ruth will send her information on the Department of the Interior and how it works down through the State and City, to formation of the individual Historic Commission. Both individuals left their respective telephone numbers with the Commission.
4. Meeting scheduling: All parties agreed to March 16, 2013, as the next scheduled meeting. We will continue to schedule meetings every other month, and hold interim meetings as necessary. If Ruth receives information from the State regarding grants and/or procedures for nomination of the five buildings on East 4th Street, she will call a special meeting in February.

ADJOURNED: Ruth Wilson called the meeting to a close at 10:40 a.m.