

CITY OF BENSON

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

SATURDAY, July 20, 2013 – 9:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Benson Historic Preservation Commission was held on
Saturday, July 20, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.
at the Benson Museum Meeting Room,
267 E. 5th Street (adjacent to), Benson, AZ 85602

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk

MINUTES

Chair Ruth Wilson opened the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

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

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Benson City Council Member Peter Wangsness, Gary Thompson of the Benson Museum Historic Commission, Alwina Fraga, and Faline Colglazier, was present.

1. Councilman Wangsness spoke regarding spotlighting the old businesses and old buildings in downtown Benson. He has seen a flyer that gives a glimpse of Old Benson on East 4th St. He suggests we give consideration to the idea.

2. Gary Thompson suggested that the two divisions of the Historic Commission should attempt to work together. He mentioned there had been lots of past disagreements about where particular historic businesses had been located, e.g., the old Zearing building was formerly K&H Grocery, and J&M Grocery.

Ruth Wilson stated that we, the other half of the Historic Commission, would be glad to work with the Benson Museum group. Gary stated they work with the San Pedro Arts Council and the Benson Library, and their meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Ruth suggested that perhaps one of our group would volunteer to go to the next Benson Museum Meeting (scheduled for the first Tuesday in September).

3. Faline Colglazier spoke regarding her background, and her interest in the history of Benson.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Minutes of the May 18, 2013 meeting were approved. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Potential new grant for expense of re-nomination of 4th Street properties and historic Districts to Historical Register: Ruth advised that the Commission had submitted nominations for five of the buildings on Main (4th St.) to be reviewed for placement on the National Register. However, the State has told her they want a reevaluation of the entire 4th Street area. They reason that because it's been sixteen years since the last evaluation, more, and possibly all of the buildings, may now fall within the fifty-year requirement. She further stated that some of those building owners may no longer be interested. The Candy Shop is empty now, but the owners of Horseshoe Restaurant, High Desert Antiques, and the old bike shop are still interested. She stated that a new grant would be available in January 2014, but the City's share of 40% would be large, and approval may not be likely. Further, Janet Strittmaier is no longer available to conduct the property review, but her ex-partner, Ralph Comey,

would like to bid on the job. Also, the survey he'd conduct would merely qualify particular buildings as sufficiently historic for further review. The entire process takes a lot of time, i.e., the Bowery took several years from start to finish. We plan to begin the process in September.

2. Hotel Arnold Report: Mr. Deutsch still trying to sell, but per Ruth, he has to be cautious or the State will go after him for the dollars they invested.

3. Barrio Report: Ruth will give Gus Figueroa the documents for home owners to complete, and he'll work with them to get it done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. 7th Street Cemetery: Liz Brenner not present so nothing new reported on the Cemetery. Ruth stated that a new flag pole had been added, and a general discussion followed regarding the Cemetery's history.

2. Apache Park Project: Ruth stated we will be attempting another grant in January 2014, but if we are lucky enough to get one, it will be just for surveys, etc. She explained to the guests that along with the Park, there were several houses on that street also on the National Historic Register. Further, we have previously written a grant for the architectural drawings, and the architect told her it would take approximately \$400,000 to complete the project as planned.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. City Council approval of new members: Ruth and Councilman Wangsness discussed the City Council's desire to interview potential new members to the Commission. Alwina Fraga asked why they felt the need to do interviews, and he explained that that plan had been tabled for now. He did state that the Council had approved of Alwina becoming a member. Councilman Wangsness himself is interested in becoming a member.

2. City Council approval of Commission membership maximum: Ruth stated that for now, we would just leave the membership numbers alone.

3. Meeting scheduling: All parties agreed to September 21, 2013, as the next scheduled meeting. We will continue to schedule meetings every other month, and hold interim meetings as necessary.

ADJOURNED: Ruth Wilson called the meeting to a close at 10:05 a.m.