

CITY OF BENSON

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013 – 9:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Benson Historic Preservation Commission was held on
Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.
at the Benson City Hall,
120 W. 6th Street, Benson, AZ 85602

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk

MINUTES

Chair Ruth Wilson opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

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

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Michelle Johnson, City employee, was present

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Minutes of the January 19, 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 the State has told her they want a reevaluation of the entire downtown. 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. So, all properties starting with the little house next to the Clip, Cut and Polish building, and extending to and including the Horseshoe Restaurant, have to be reviewed. She estimates this could take up to four or five years to finish. Gus Figueroa asked if the evaluation could be done by individuals, or members of the Historic Commission. Both Ruth and Michelle explained that it takes extensive time and research, sometimes resulting in several binders full of research just for one property, so it would be nearly impossible for one person to undertake. Ruth stated that Janet Parkhurst has withdrawn for personal reasons, but that Mr. Comey has contacted her and is willing to take on the job. However, we need to seek additional bids. In addition, Mr. Vonde has advised Ruth that the National Registry is becoming more particular about what they will approve. They will be meeting with State officials in Phoenix this year in an attempt to finalize updated requirements. The State is also working on getting a share of the Lotto money to help with evaluation expenses, but to Ruth's knowledge there's been no vote yet. Commission Members generally agreed that we should submit a bid when the next grant becomes available.

In addition, Ruth would like Gus Figueroa to work with the Barrio property owners regarding listing their homes on the National Historic Register. Gus agreed to do so.

2. Hotel Arnold Report: Michelle Johnson stated, that as discussed at an earlier meeting, Mr. Deutsch had sold the antiques from the Hotel property to an auction company. She reported that while attending the auction (here in Benson), she noticed that Mr. Deutsch was buying back several of the antiques he had sold. When she asked him about it, he claimed that the auction company had stolen those items and more. The Hotel property remains for sale.

3. Re-review of some properties for nomination: (See Paragraph #1 above)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. 7th Street Cemetery: Liz Brenner not present so nothing new reported on the Cemetery.

2. Apache Park Project: Ruth stated there is a possibility the State will approve a grant in the 2013-14 Budget Year. However, that would not happen until January of 2014. In the meantime, the architect drawings have expired.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Confirmation Vote for Potential new Member: Ruth advised that Alvina Fraga and Phyllis Pralgo have both shown an interest in becoming members of the Commission. However, Phyllis is still employed by the Benson Police Department, and cannot join until she retires. As to Alvina, she is spending May and June in California, but intends to be at the next Meeting in July. Ruth asked for a Motion to approve Alvina's Membership. The Motion was made and seconded, and a 5-0 vote to approve was taken. The City of Benson must take it from there.

Commission Members and Michelle Johnson discussed and agreed on a Commission membership maximum of seven. Thus, a Motion was made, seconded, and a 5-0 vote to limit membership to seven individuals was taken.

2. Secure bids for re-evaluation of 4th Street properties and historic districts pursuant to National Register regulations: As set out above, we will not be doing so this year, but a new grant should be available in January 2013, and we will do so then.

4. Meeting scheduling: All parties agreed to July 20, 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 9:43 a.m.