

**CITY OF BENSON**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2017 – 9:00 A.M.**

A meeting of the Benson Historic Preservation Commission was held on  
Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.  
at the Benson Heights Southern Baptist Church,  
Duane & High Street, Benson, AZ 85602

---

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk

**MINUTES**

Chair Ruth Wilson opened the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Members present: Ruth Wilson, Phyllis Little, Gerry Thomson, Alwine Frega. Absent: Michelle Johnson from the City, Gus Figueroa, Irma Bernal, Joanne Sturgeon.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

1. Lisa Hill from Benson Clean & Beautiful, Susan Valcheck from the public was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Minutes of Regular Meeting November 19, 2016 were approved Vote 4-0

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Up-date on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Historical Register Survey: Ruth Wilson reported Michelle Johnson obtained the approval and signature from the City of Benson for the survey of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street properties to be placed on the Historic Register and returned same to the State. Ruth contacted Mr. Comey regarding the above and informed him of changes to the survey which will now include only 4<sup>th</sup> Street properties from the Horseshoe Café (Patagonia Street) to the old Hi Wo building (Gila Street) instead of the original 4<sup>th</sup> Street properties from Gila Street to the Oasis Court due to the large number of missing historical buildings between Patagonia and Oasis Court. Mr. Comey has to redo his map and has eighteen months to complete his report and submit it to the State. The State will send the request to the National Registry for approval.
2. Hotel Arnold up-date: Cindy Allen will be erecting a chain link fence around the property to prevent future vandalism. The Hotel Arnold project may take 2 to 3 years to complete at latest report.
3. Hi Wo Store up-date: The latest information, owners of the building have put possible demolition on hold, hoping a buyer will come forward to buy and refurbish the building.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### 1. Apache Park Project

- a. Grants and work with other community groups: Lisa Hill from the Benson Clean & Beautiful and Ruth Wilson, Gerry Thomson and Alwine Frega from the Historical Preservation Commission met with Mr. DeSpain and Michelle Johnson from the City to discuss setting up an account for the Apache Park project.
- b. Fund raising: After much discussion Ruth Wilson stated she would approach 'Apache Powder' and make a request for a donation for the project.  
Ruth Wilson will also explore 'Go Fund Me' on the internet to raise funds.  
Ruth Wilson will also approach 'Wal Mart' for a possible grant.  
Ruth Wilson will also explore possible public grants.  
Organizing a public function to raise moneys was discussed and a Motion by Gerry Thomson 'to make feasible plans for a fund raiser in the park during 2017 Butterfield Days to raise money for the Apache Park Project', Seconded by Phyllis Little.  
Motion passed 4-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. City Code for Commissions and the Section Twenty-four Historical Preservation Ordinance combination is awaiting word from Michelle Johnson for approval from the City.
2. Placing highway signs with a Historic Designation around Benson to draw in tourists was discussed
3. Ruth Wilson informed the Commission members about the 'State Annual Historical Conference' which will be held in Oro Valley on June 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
4. Meeting scheduling: Ruth Wilson stated the next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2017

**ADJOURNED:** Ruth Wilson called the meeting to a close at 9:17 a.m.

Recorded & Submitted by Alwine Frega, Secretary