

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
CITY OF MANSFIELD**

**May 9, 2019**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. in the Council Conference Room of City Hall, 1200 East Broad Street, with the meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving date, place, and subject thereof, having been posted as prescribed by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

**Present:**

Robert Smith	Chairman
David Littlefield	Vice-Chairman
Houston Mitchell	Commissioner
Lynda Pressley	Commissioner
Mark Walker	Commissioner
Rick Weintraub	Commissioner

**Absent:**

Justin Gilmore	Commissioner
Ginny Graygor	Commissioner
Arnaldo Rivera	Commissioner

**Staff:**

Art Wright	Planner
Jessica Baber	Museum Manager
Delia Jones	Secretary

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Smith called for approval of the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Pressley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion which carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

**Other Agenda Items**

**HLC#19-002: Consideration of the Historic Preservation Tax Exemption Program**

Chairman Smith called for a motion to consider HLC#19-002. Vice-Chairman Littlefield made a motion to recommend approval of the Historic Preservation Tax Exemption Program to the City Council. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion.

Mr. Wright presented Staff's revisions to the Historic Preservation Tax Exemption Policy document to clarify the penalty provisions if a property owner receiving a tax exemption removed the "H", Historic Landmark Overlay designation from a property before the expiration of the exemption period.

Chairman Smith asked Commissioner Weintraub if the revisions addressed Mr. Weintraub's concerns. Commissioner Weintraub stated that the revisions did.

Chairman Smith stated for the record that he and the members of his family, as owners of historic buildings, would not participate in the Historic Preservation Tax Exemption Program. He stated that as a member of the Historic Landmark Commission, it would not be proper to do so.

Commissioner Walker also stated that he, as the owner of a historic house, would not participate.

After discussion, the Commission voted 6 to 0 in favor of the motion.

**Discussion Items:**

**Discussion on possible joint projects with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board**

Mr. Wright introduced Ms. Jessica Baber, the new Museum Manager of the Mansfield Historical Museum. Ms. Baber is a member of City Staff under the Library Department and also provides staff support to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board. Ms. Baber was welcomed to the meeting by Chairman Smith.

Mr. Wright stated that the Board could not assume the Commission's duties and powers to designate landmarks, but that there might be mutual projects that both groups could work on together. Some ideas presented included updating the Historic Resources Survey, recommend properties that may be suitable for Historic Landmark Overlay designation, updating the City's Historic Preservation Plan from 1998, and cooperate on promotional events such as Preservation Month.

Mr. Wright also stated that the Man House would become a museum, and that the Board would likely advise on the management of museum activities. The Board could support a request that the Man House receive a Historic Landmark Overlay designation.

Commissioner Weintraub suggested that members from the Historic Landmark Commission meet with an equal number of members of the Board to discuss Preservation Month activities for May 2020.

After discussion, Chairman Smith asked Ms. Baber to propose two projects to the Advisory Board: 1) support for the Man House landmark designation; and 2) forming a planning committee of 2 members each from the Commission and the Board to consult on possible Preservation Month activities for 2020.

#### **Discussion and possible consideration of Preservation Month activities**

Mr. Wright stated that May was national Preservation Month, and although it was too late to celebrate this year, 2020 will mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's incorporation which would be a good opportunity to celebrate Preservation Month.

Mr. Wright noted that in addition to working with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board on 2020 events, an event such as Preservation Month would require the participation of the Mansfield Historical Society, the Arts Commission and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

#### **Commission Announcements**

Commissioner Mitchell asked about progress on the Man House restoration project. Mr. Wright stated that the City was seeking a qualified Construction Manager with preservation experience to oversee the project. Mr. Wright noted that the cost of the restoration work may exceed the allocated funds, that might result in the delay of some repairs.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if private donations might be helpful. Mr. Wright stated that the City does not usually solicit private funds, but that a non-profit organization such as the Mansfield Historical Society has fund-raising programs that could assist.

Commissioner Mitchell also asked about potential development on City property at the old Fire Station. Mr. Wright reported that the City has commissioned a new planning study for the downtown area, including recommendations on the best use of City property.

#### **Staff Comments**

Mr. Wright reported that the inscription for the state subject marker at the Man Homestead had finally been approved and that a new marker was being cast at the manufacturer.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

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Robert A. Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Delia Jones, Secretary