



**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR – MAYOR’S BOARD ROOM  
DECEMBER 6, 2010  
4:00 P.M.**

The El Paso Historic Landmark Commission held a public hearing in the City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall Building, December 6, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

The following Commissioners answered roll call:

Mr. Joe Riccillo, Chair  
Mr. Joel Guzman  
Mr. Randy Brock  
Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez  
Mr. Ernesto Villanueva, Jr.

The following City Staff were present:

Ms. Cynthia Osborn, City Attorney’s Office, Assistant City Attorney  
Ms. Providencia Velazquez, Planning and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Tony De La Cruz, Planning and Economic Development, Planner

Chair Riccillo called the meeting to order.

**I. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes.

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Chair Riccillo, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS IT STANDS.**

**II. REGULAR AGENDA – DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**Certificate of Appropriateness**

1. No Certificate of Appropriateness applications received for this period.

**Mayor**  
John F. Cook

**City Council**

District 1  
Ann Morgan Lilly

District 2  
Susannah M. Byrd

District 3  
Emma Acosta

District 4  
Carl L. Robinson

District 5  
Rachel Quintana

District 6  
Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7  
Steve Ortega

District 8  
Beto O'Rourke

**City Manager**  
Joyce A. Wilson



2. Addresses of property HLC Commissioners have requested that HLC staff review or investigate and provide a report to the HLC. If no addresses are submitted in advance and listed under this agenda item, Commissioners may announce such addresses under this agenda item. Discussion on property announced at this meeting will take place during the next regularly scheduled meeting. December 6, 2010 deadline for HLC members to request for agenda items to be scheduled for the December 20, 2010 meeting. December 20, 2010 deadline for HLC members to request for agenda items to be scheduled for the January 10, 2011 meeting.

A. Magoffin Villas at 915, 917, 1001 Magoffin Avenue and 1000, 1008, 1010 Myrtle Avenue

Ms. Velazquez gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained construction was well underway.

Commissioner Villanueva, Jr. would like to see the plans and wondered if they were online.

Mr. De La Cruz responded no, the plans were not online; however, he would email all Commissioners copies of the plans and documentation. He added the project will be three stories with a gable roof.

B. Alamo Elementary School at 500 South Hills Street

Ms. Velazquez noted at this time there is no new information; however, the ordinance changing the zoning from A-3(Apartment) to A-3/H (Apartment/Historic) would be presented to City Council for approval at tomorrow's Council meeting.

Mr. De La Cruz added the Texas Historical Commission, in their letter dated March 30, 2010, stated the original portions of the building date to 1899 and 1907, forming the core of the historic property, and after removal of the nonhistoric additions (built in 1951 and 1991) would be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Education, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture. Planning Staff recommended preserving all three lots; however, City Plan Commission recommended City Council only preserve the original portion of the school.

Commissioner Gonzalez agreed preserving the three lots made sense; protect the historic site, maintain architectural control and compatibility.

For Commissioner Guzman, Mr. De La Cruz provided background information regarding the inception of preserving Alamo Elementary School. Furthermore, the property owners were opposed to the preservation project stating the school did not have any historical value.

Chair Riccillo thanked Staff for their valiant effort and invited Commissioners to attend tomorrow's Council meeting. He requested Staff leave the item on the next HLC agenda.



C. 215 N. Mesa Street

Ms. Velazquez gave a PowerPoint presentation and noted the building was designed by Henry Trost of Trost & Trost. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**POINT OF INTEREST**

Per the PowerPoint photo, Commissioner Gonzalez noted the smaller, dark building behind the Roberts-Banner Building was the federal courthouse, an alley running behind it; additionally, the courthouse was not attached to any other building. The alley has since been filled in.

Mr. De La Cruz noted there have been discussions the property owner has offered a majority of the building to Texas Tech School of Architecture. Staff has counted 18 Trost & Trost buildings just in the Downtown area.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented on the beautiful marble staircases and added there are still very interesting features on the inside. He noted the last few antique watch repairmen are located in this building and hoped the property owners would take notice.

Should Staff come across new information, Chair Riccillo requested Staff place the item on the next HLC agenda.

**HLC Staff Reports**

3. Update on Administrative Review Cases since last HLC meeting for the properties listed on the attachment posted with this agenda. (See Attachment "A.")

Staff included Administrative Review Cases from the November 22, 2010 agenda.

**Planning & Economic Development Department Report**

4. No updates to report

**Visionaries in Preservation Report**

5. VIP Manager Presentation
6. Discussion and action regarding VIP issues

Ms. Velazquez stated Staff will get the Visionaries in Preservation up and running beginning January, 2011.

**Other Business**

7. A. Approval of Historic Landmark Commission Meeting Minutes.  
November 22, 2010

Chair Riccillo asked if Commissioners had any additions/changes/corrections/revisions. There was none.

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Chair Riccillo, seconded Commissioner Villanueva, Jr. and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 22, 2010 MINUTES.**

**ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Guzman



**B. Discussion and action regarding the 2011 HLC meeting calendar.**

Ms. Velazquez noted the meetings will be held on Monday. Should Commissioners have any changes, please notify Staff as soon as possible.

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Chair Riccillo, seconded Commissioner Guzman and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE 2011 HLC MEETING CALENDAR.**

**C. Discussion and action regarding the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Mills Building.**

Ms. Velazquez gave a PowerPoint presentation and requested Commissioners email their comments/concerns to Staff, as quickly as possible, regarding the HLC's draft response letter to the Texas Historical Commission's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Mills Building, 303 North Oregon Street.

Mr. De La Cruz noted the rehabilitation project brought back the lower level prism glass windows, canopies and crown molding with bats as originally built. Additionally, he offered Commissioners a walk-through of the building in the future.

Chair Riccillo noted the Texas Historical Commission has forwarded the nomination to the State Board of Review for their consideration and possible action at the January 15, 2011 meeting.

Commissioners and Staff discussed whether or not the Mills building was the largest monolithic structure, at that time, in El Paso or the nation.

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Commissioner Guzman, seconded Commissioner Villanueva, Jr. and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE LETTER AND VOICE OUR APPROVAL OF THE MILLS BUILDING FOR THE FEDERAL REGISTER.**

**FUTURE HLC AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

1. Commissioner Gonzalez requested Staff provide Commissioners an update regarding the Fall Mansion and the December 15<sup>th</sup> bid process.
2. Commissioner Villanueva, Jr. requested Staff provide Commissioners information regarding the American Furniture building.

Before adjourning, Chair Riccillo requested Commissioners inform Staff whether they will/will not be able to attend the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. He noted it is becoming difficult whether or not to expect a quorum.

No further business.

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Chair Riccillo, seconded by Commissioner Guzman and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:05 P.M.**

