



MINUTES

Historic Preservation Advisory Board

October 4, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.

Audio and Video of this meeting can be accessed at:

<http://losalamos.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Chair Bartlit called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Members Present:

Nancy Bartlit, Member, Acting Chair
Robert Dryja, Member
Elizabeth Martineau, Member
Loretta Weiss, Member
Steven Laurent, Member

Staff Present:

Sobia Sayeda, Planning Manager
Jane Mathews, Senior Planner
Desirae J. Lujan, Associate Planner

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

3. HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approval of Agenda

Member Laurent moved to approve the Agenda. Member Dryja seconded. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0 vote.

B. Election of Chair

Member Weiss nominated Steven Laurent as Chair.

Member Laurent asked if there was interest from other members with seniority. Members Weiss, Dryja and Martineau declined. Acting Chair Bartlit expressed that she and Member Dryja were up on their term. They would be re-applying, but it is not guaranteed that they would be reappointed. Member Laurent asked for the roles and responsibilities of the Chair. Sobia Sayeda, Planning Manager, responded.

Member Martineau seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made for Chair. Steven Laurent was appointed as Chair for an annual term starting in October 2023 through September 2024.

Member Laurent nominated Member Martineau for Vice Chair. The Board supported the nomination, and she accepted. Elizabeth Martineau was appointed as Vice Chair for an annual term starting in October 2023 through September 2024.

In-coming Chair Laurent requested that Acting Chair Bartlit continue in the acting role for the rest of the meeting.

C. Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) Minutes, August 2, 2023, Meeting

The Board did not communicate changes to the Minutes as drafted. Acting Chair Bartlit declared the Minutes approved as presented.

MINUTES APPROVED AS DRAFTED.

D. Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) Minutes, September 6, 2023, Meeting

Corrections were communicated to the Minutes as drafted. The Board unanimously supported the changes. Acting Chair Bartlit declared the Minutes approved as corrected.

MINUTES APPROVED AS AMENDED.

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. DISCUSSION ONLY – Update on Los Alamos County Historic District Overlay and input received from September 19, 2023, County Council presentation, and Historic Society Board Meeting.

Ms. Sayeda shared that Patrick Moore presented the HPAB's annual update to the County Council. Mr. Moore relayed the Council's direction last year and informed them on how HPAB has moved forward. They asked questions about the Historic Protection Overlay, neighborhood standards, and applicable standards to the properties within the Fuller Lodge vicinity. No further directions were given. Regarding the Los Alamos Historical Society's September Board meeting, no one was able to attend, but Ms. Sayeda and Member Laurent plan to attend in October. Other Board members were invited to attend but were asked to coordinate with the Chair to avoid creating a quorum.

Ms. Sayeda communicated the status of the Historic District Overlay and suggested that after they receive input from the Los Alamos Historical Society's monthly meeting, the HPAB should reconvene the discussion and direct staff on next steps. Member Weiss reiterated and added that the outcome of the Los Alamos Historical Society's meeting would give a better understanding of how to proceed.

Acting Chair Bartlit explained her interpretation of the motion at the public hearing. She stated that the intent was to have the public hearing continue to the next for additional discussion and possible action; however, Ms. Sayeda returned to withdraw the application on behalf of the Community Development Director. Member Weiss voiced support for how the last meeting unfolded, as it accomplished a lot. Acting Chair Bartlit noted that the direction of the Council is to move the overlay forward so that there are protections from any new development. She asked for discussion on the Bathtub Row owners' response to the overlay. The O'Donnell's letter supports the overlay moving forward without their properties until there is more time to determine if the language can be changed. She communicated that the Board should have an idea of what the alternatives are, and recommended guidance from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). She asked when the county would submit another application. Ms. Sayeda stated that staff will not re-apply until they are directed by the HPAB. Members agreed that they would like the support of more property owners before proceeding.

Vice Chair Martineau stated that although the letter notes that they could be excluded from the overlay – it was not stated in a positive way, and it is not a positive way to move forward. Ms. Sayeda said she would reach out to SHPO and inquire about the possibilities for the language. Member Weiss supported the idea and stated that with that information and the feedback from the Los

Alamos Historical Society's meeting, the Board will have what they need to make a recommendation.

The Board considered ways to acknowledge property owners of historical properties and landmarks to recognize their maintenance efforts. Ideas were presented, which included certificates and events outside of an HPAB meeting, and perhaps at a Los Alamos Historical Society lecture. Vice Chair Martineau stated that they could discuss the possibility of recognition at a Los Alamos Historical Society event when they attend their meeting. The Board discussed planning recognition for the month of May, Historic Preservation Month. Ms. Sayeda informed that she would research what the Board could do in their capacity for outreach and honor of the community – as they are an advisory board, and not an action board.

Acting Chair Bartlit noted that part of the Board's Work Plan is to advertise what HPAB does. She suggested a Press Release, or an article that shares information with the community about historical preservation works. Ms. Sayeda offered to speak with one of the local newspapers to ask if they have an interest in writing an article, or a Board member can write one and submit it for publication. Acting Chair Bartlit asked that the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair take on the task. Chair Laurent acknowledged. Vice Chair Martineau noted that the library's built anniversary is approaching – they could be another group and honored for their architecture. Ms. Sayeda added that the United Church has also contributed to historical preservation efforts.

Ms. Sayeda informed that she would look at the Charter and speak with SHPO to determine what can be achieved. Member Weiss asked if there was a conclusion on what language would be suggested for change. Ms. Sayeda responded that change recommendations would come from the discussion outcome with SHPO.

5. BOARD/DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff Report

Ms. Sayeda reminded Members Bartlit and Dryja that their terms had ended, but they could re-apply through the county's website.

B. Chair's Report

C. Board Liaison Report

Ms. Sayeda shared her report on *Mainstreet*. Acting Chair Bartlit stated that she went to *Arts in Public Places Advisory Board*, and Member Martineau reported that the next *Tourism Task Force Board* and *Lodger's Tax* will be in December.

D. Council Liaison Report

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

7. NEXT MEETING(S)/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. November 1, 2023

Member Weiss asked that the Board add the following to November's Agenda:

1. Discussion if an HPAB member should attend any other Boards and Commissions meetings.
2. Feedback from State Historic Preservation Office concerning changes to regulatory language applicable to a Historic Protection Overlay District.
3. Report from the Los Alamos Historical Society Board's October meeting.
4. Work Plan status (may be moved to December's Agenda)

8. ADJOURNMENT
7:01 PM