

SMITHVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION & DESIGNS STANDARDS
COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes Wednesday April 20th 2022 meeting

PRESENT: Sarah O'Brien, Jill Strube, April Daniels, Nancy Catherman, David Herrington, Walter Winslet, Victoria Allen. (Mayor Morgan)

Zoom: Caroline Noya, Mike Hightower.

Guest: Andy Esquivel- Community Engagement Co-Ordinator

Call to order by Sarah O'Brien at 5:01 pm.

Quorum present.

Mayor Morgan discussed the application for HPDS membership being necessary due to an increase in interest to join the committee. Everyone still interested was encourage to complete the application and return to Jill for approval of the City Council at the May meeting. Sarah O'Brien also noted that all of the current appointments will end simultaneously and that the bylaws may need changes to reflect the appointment length for each member. A discussion on the addition of a cover letter to accompany each application describing the responsibilities required.

No announcements/ presentation.

Guest Introduction: Andy Esquivel- City of Smithville Community Engagement Co-Ordinator.

Minutes May 2021: the minutes were approved as read by April Daniels and seconded by Nancy Catherman.

Update on COA's for HBO Movie:

Jill Strube reported the during the filming of Panic one temporary COA was received and two were received during the filming of Love & Death, and two were not returned. Discussion on improved methods of gaining all temporary COA's from movie companies, making them responsible for the follow through and making sure COA's are in the packet that the City Manager delivers to the movie companies.

Texas Mural COA:

A temporary and a permanent COA was presented for the painting of the Texas flag mural at 201 Main Street. A vote to allow the flag to remain was made by April Daniels and seconded by Nancy Catherman. 7 years in agreement.

National Preservation Month:

Discussion to present a Proclamation to recognize the special month will be presented for consideration to City Council at the May meeting.

Further discussion for the need of more awareness in the historical district. It was decided that informational flyers with pertinent information about the buildings' history would be handed out to the 100+ buildings in the Historical District.

Nancy Catherman suggested Chamber involvement, speakers at social gatherings such as The Lions Club, the Garden Club etc. An excellent kick off for distributing information will be at the next chamber mixer at the Heritage Society/Edward Jones (April 28th 2022). Andy volunteered to assist in putting the flyers together.

Sarah O'Brien then introduced the concern of empty buildings and the purpose of a "Demolition by Neglect" ordinance. These ordinances can encourage owners of empty buildings to attend round table discussions, brain storm for use of the building, and reinforce the history of the building and its back story. Other possible ordinances discussed was the "Vacant Building" ordinance and how the verbiage would assist with more buildings being used. April Daniels stated she would like to move forward with a "Vacant Building Committee Task Force". This committee would consist of April Daniels, Jill Strube, Nancy Catherman, Victoria Allen, Sarah O'Brien and Caroline Noya and a representative of City Council to be added. This will be addressed at the June City Council Meeting.

Walker Hightower Mural and Presentation:

Walker's Eagle Scout project at the Mural at the First National Bank of Bastrop was discussed and appreciation for the excellent refurbishment of the mural. Jill Strube showed a cap that will be presented to Walker. Mike Hightower was asked what else Walker might want to honor him, Mike said that Walker would be more than happy with the cap. It was decided that committee members attend the next City Council meeting in order to make the project a highlight of the month, and assist with the presentation to Walker Hightower.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.