

Notes from the HPB Chair

The Historic Preservation Board identified the need for the City of Mesa to have a Historic Preservation Officer on staff. The City had one about 8 years ago, but the position was lost during budget cuts. Mesa is one of the largest major cities operating without such a position. The Historic Preservation Officer position would give the board a qualified person to work with on our many issues regarding preservation, appropriateness etc.

At first the board wrote letters to the city manager, Mayor and council members and reflected this need in our minutes regularly. Nothing really seemed to work until a few board members met in person with the Mayor and City Manager and proposed using a contractor to save costs on retirement and health care costs. The board also called or met with each council member in person and the chair spoke to the council during their meetings on several occasions, pointing out signs and important historic elements that have been lost without an officer. Finally however, the powers that be came to the conclusion to add a \$50,000.00 contractor position to fund the HP Officer.

This officer will now be able to give residents and neighbors a contact person when making changes to their historic home or office. The HP Officer will be able to address the facade problem on Main Street, register a few World War II neighborhoods and bring their knowledge, education and expertise to the city officials to make sure our signs, landmarks and buildings are protected from demolition. The volunteer board continues to work hard on issues that pertain to keeping our historic places safe and in check.

By Janice Gennevois, HPB Chair

West Side Clark Historic District

The West Side Clark Historic District is working towards a Local designation with the help and direction of the HPB. Members of the HPB attended a Prop 207 Signing party held in their neighborhood. It was well organized with a Band, Food, Art Gallery.



Southwest Archaeology Team, Inc.

Members of the Southwest Archaeology Team (SWAT) affiliated with the Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH) contributed more than 1600 volunteer hours of work in our state this year to preserve and protect both prehistoric and historic structures. We continue to add mud to areas of erosion each month to various features at the Pueblo Grande mound in Phoenix. A similar project is at Mesa Grande. However, this year we were inhibited by vandalism of equipment and also some rainy days. Security cameras and sensors have now been placed throughout the site so we hope this will help stop further destruction, and we can concentrate on getting the north side of the mound stabilized. We are also having problems with vandalism at the northwest section of the Park of the Canals where we are stabilizing a stone building known as the milk barn.

Progress is being made with the restoration of the 1930 Toltec School in Eloy to its original appearance. Electrical work is about complete, an air conditioner is being installed, and more detailed work has been progressing. The only difference between the original school and now will be the addition the cooling and heating because the structure will eventually become the Santa Cruz Valley Historical Society Museum.

Maintenance continues as needed on an adobe stage stop and schoolhouse we stabilized in a desert area south of Coolidge.

Our group took part in the planning of the 2016 Arizona Archaeology Expo which was held at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. We led tours of the areas that are usually off limits to guests and also introduced them to SWAT and to the AzMNH as well as Mesa Grande Cultural Park.

Our analyzed artifacts from excavation sites need to be stored in an orderly manner in a safe place so we are anxious to do so in the section of the Federal Building being dedicated for this.

Meetings for our membership are held four times a year in the AzMNH theatre, the public is welcome to attend. We are on Facebook and our website is www.southwestarchaeologyteam.org.

Submitted by Donna Benge, SWAT Chair



CITY OF MESA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Historic Preservation Board

Janice Gennevois, Chair

Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair

James Taylor

Laura Shaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D.

Analisa Alvrus, Ph.D.

Louise Swann

Greg Marek

John D. Wesley, AICP
Acting Historic Preservation Officer

Certified Local Government (CLG) Inventory (Properties on local and national register)

1999	Evergreen H.D. (L), (N)
1999	West Second Street H.D. (L), (N)
1999	Glenwood Wilbur H.D. (L), (N)
2000	Temple H.D. (L), (N)
2003	Robson H.D. (L), (N)
2010	Fraser Fields H.D. (L), (N)
2010	West Side Clark H.D. (N)



Certified Local Government (CLG)
Annual Report 2015–2016

Historic Preservation Board Retreat

In April the HPB held its annual retreat. The Board met at Jarod's Coffee & Tea Gallery on Main Street and proceeded a walk along the Main Street business area and continued to the Sistine House for a tour.

Following the tour of the Sistine House they traveled north to the Park of Canals for lunch and a tour conducted by Dr. Jerry Howard of the Southwest Archaeology Team. Dr. Howard explained the historic Hohokam canal system, the collection of data, and the detailed process of mapping the canals while pointing out areas on a map.

Tour included looking at the "Milk Barn" on the north side of the Park of Canals. Dr. Howard gave us the history of the Milk Barn and the problems the SWAT is facing to restore it. After a picnic style lunch and on our way back to Council Chambers we drove through some Post WWII subdivisions along Horne & Stapley. We ended the Retreat day with a Board discussion of several items of interest in the coming year.



HPB Historical Fiction Writing Contest

The winners of the 2016 Mesa Historic Preservation Board Historical Fiction Writing Contest were:

1st Place - Anna's Story

2nd Place - It's a Beautiful Day

3rd Place - Up in a Blaze

The City of Mesa Historical Preservation Board's Annual Writing Contest was a true success this past year! We had over 20 submissions from two elementary school classrooms! The teachers and the students worked very hard on their research on their topic of what life was like in one of Mesa's historical neighborhoods. Last year, the Writing Contest had approximately 10 entries from one school – we've grown in size by 50%. As the coordinator for the contest, I contacted approximately 20 schools last year and nearly 40 schools this year. We are hopeful there will be more students and teachers who help their students apply their writing skills to better the history of Mesa and learn how they can become involved with the process of civic engagement. We thank the teachers and students for their hard work and dedication to their learning in Mesa!

Submitted by Laura Metcalfe, HPB Member

HPB supports the preservation of the

Pioneer Park Train

Jim Ruiz and Linda Abbott of the Save Our Train Committee provided the Board with a background on the committee and the work they are doing to save the train engine in Pioneer Park. 2015 has been a good year for them and they have the funds available now to pay for moving and restoring the engine. They are working with the City Manager to put together a final proposal for how this work is to be done. They requested support from the Board to continue the effort. Chair Gennevois asked for clarification as to how they plan to protect the train from vandalism. Ms. Abbott explained that by moving the train up to the front of the park where there is better lighting and visibility they believe that will do a lot to protect it. Mr. Ruiz further explained the items in the cab are the main concern for being harmed or removed. They are looking at options to have those protected by plexi-glass or some other means. Board member Taylor asked about how they had developed their support. Mr. Ruiz stated it has been slow, but over the last couple of years as they have gotten more into the use of social media it has improved a lot. They have a Facebook page and website and have used newspaper stories. They have also restored the bell, whistle, and headlamp from the train and take those to events for display. The Board members voiced their appreciation for the work being done and support for continued efforts.



Light Rail Opening Celebration

On August 22, 2015 Mesa celebrated the opening of the Light Rail to downtown Mesa on Main Street. It was a full day of fun activities, food, music, art and education. The HPB participated in the activities by teaming up with the Mesa Preservation Foundation (MPF) in sharing a booth where they greeted residents, handed out the Mesa Historic Downtown Walking Tour books, answered questions, encouraged people to attend the monthly HPB Meetings and discussed the Historic Panels displayed at each station.



2016 Mesa Historic Preservation Awards

Since 1998 the City of Mesa has recognized citizens for outstanding efforts in the community who, through skill and determination, have given value and meaning to Mesa through historic preservation.

The following 2016 recipients were honored at the City Council meeting in June.

Paul Chaisson – Rehabilitation & Restoration

Linda Matthews – Education & Outreach

Jim Britton – Individual Lifetime Achievement

Second Friday Event

Once again the HPB teamed up with the MPF to continue its outreach program at the Second Friday Events held on Main Street. The booth was set up for the months of September & October 2015, and February & March 2016.

Two HPB members worked the booth each month speaking to the residents of Mesa about historic preservation including historic districts, overlays, and other topics of interest. The booth had handouts available including the Mesa Historic Walking Tour pamphlets, maps of Mesa Historic Districts, word puzzles and more.



Second Avenue

The HPB supported an inventory study of the houses located on the south side of the downtown area. The city applied for and received a pass-through grant from SHPO to cover the cost to hire Vincent Murray, Historian, Arizona Historical Research Co. who documented and completed inventory forms for 106 properties. Vincent worked with volunteers to collect the historical data and photograph each property for this inventory. His team included Wendy Mack-Allred, HPB Vice-Chair, Linda Matthews, Mesa resident, and Morgan Williams, Intern. A letter was sent out to the property owners along with the results of the survey for their property. The letter explained the survey and the interest in establishing a district in the hopes this information will encourage their participation. It is up to the neighborhood at this point, however, to carry this forward.



2016 HPB Work Plan

- To continue its work on establishing a Commercial Historic District for the downtown area.
- To work towards the removal of the downtown shade structures & implement a façade improvement program.
- To reinstate the position for a full-time Historic Preservation Officer.
- Implement a Sign Ordinance for the Historic signs along Main Street