

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Development Services Conference Room, 119 East First Street, Winslow, Arizona.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Law
Commissioner Emigh
Commissioner Evans
Commissioner Hartman
Commissioner Leary

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Black
Commissioner Tsosie

STAFF

David Coolidge, City Manager
Ashley Salyers, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Law at 4:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed. Roll was called, and Commissioners Black and Tsosie were absent.

Motion was not needed as both Commissioners Black and Tsosie seats were declared vacant by City Council.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES –February 27, 2025

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Hartman, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously with Chairperson Law and Commissioners, Emigh, Evans, Hartman and Leary voting yes.

STATUS REPORTS

A. Update regarding Mural Project at 112 North Kinsley Avenue Art's Council members

Commission members along with two members of the Art's Council met to discuss the proposed mural project at 112 North Kinsley Avenue to share ideas and gather information. The mural is intended to be a historical representation of First street capturing the spirit of the area across several decades, primarily from the 1800's through the 1940's. The wall in question is a red-brown structure, and the mural could potentially cover the entire length of the building. There was talk about building a fence around.

A significant element of the design will be the clock salvaged from the demolished Elks building. The commission plans to incorporate this clock into the mural, possibly in the location it once occupied, as a tribute to its history. There was some discussion about whether the clock could be made operational again or at least lit for visual impact.

In terms of artistic direction, the commission expressed a preference for a realistic style rather than a stylized or abstract approach. They discussed focusing on notable architectural features rather than including every building from the historical street. The mural could blend scenes from different time periods and omit less visually appealing structures. There was also conversation about possibly removing some stucco from the wall to reveal the original material, which could enhance the authenticity and aesthetics of the mural. However, this is not a firm requirement and would depend on feasibility and cost.

The Art's Council was asked to provide a conceptual sketch of the mural and a preliminary cost estimate. This will help guide future decisions and allow for early budgeting. No strict timeline was established for the project, making it a long-term initiative. Communication can be coordinated with the Recording Secretary Ashley who will act as the point of contact for routing questions and updates to the commission and Art's Council.

B. Update regarding BMO Bank

Commissioner Emigh mentioned she had sent an email about a month ago, but no response has been received. In the email, it was suggested that their bank president could listen to one of the previous commission meetings or even join via video to gain a better understanding of the project. Although they had previously mentioned being very busy, follow-up communication is planned to re-engage them, especially since they have shared valuable information relevant to the discussion. It was agreed that the materials provided should be reviewed, possibly during the current meeting, to help determine whether involvement is still of interest and if the project remains a viable option. The commission was encouraged to ask any further questions or share additional input on the matter when it is available.

COMMISSION CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

A. Discussion and/or Action Regarding Creating Historic District Overlay

Staff provided background on the Historical District Overlay, confirming that a review of city records going back to the 1970s revealed that no ordinance has ever been adopted to create such an overlay. It was explained that if the commission wished to proceed, the process would need to follow the established guidelines outlined in the municipal code. Once the commission votes to approve a proposed overlay, the recommendation would move to City Council. If the Council adopts the ordinance, the zoning maps would be updated to reflect the new historic overlay designation.

There was interest in starting with a city-owned property, such as the Vargas Field complex, as a pilot site. This would allow the commission to navigate the process internally before considering outreach to private property owners. Staff supported

this approach, reiterating that any final decision would be made by City Council following the commission's recommendation.

During the discussion, staff outlined that adopting an overlay would require an ordinance, followed by a 30-day waiting period in which a referendum could be initiated. In the unlikely event of opposition, a valid referendum could place the issue on the next general election ballot. However, given that the property is city-owned, such a scenario is not anticipated to be an issue.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Hartman, seconded by Commissioner Emigh, to designate the creation of a Historic District Overlay for the Vargas Field complex and surrounding sports area as a high-priority project. Motion passed unanimously with Chairperson Law and Commissioners, Emigh, Evans, Hartman and Leary voting yes.

B. Discussion and/or Action Regarding Arizona Route 66 Association Grant

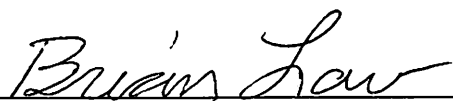
Chairperson Law had let the commission know that they missed the recent funding opportunity for the Arizona Route 66 Association Grant, but plans to stay engaged for future rounds. Most applications were approved, except one due to being incomplete. The group managing the funds is very interested in supporting Winslow, and the Museum's application – led by Mary – was especially successful, receiving full funding due to its exceptional quality. The Route 66 grant is closed for now but usually opens annually, with a possible mid-year-round expected. It was discussed to make a separate project idea in case new funding becomes available.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Commission members will discuss the status of the Vargas Field Historic District overlay.
- Commissioner Leary would like to discuss the potential expansion of the downtown signage project (e.g., additional signs in areas like Vargas Field) ahead of budget planning.
- Members will discuss searching for potential grants outside of the Route 66 grant.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Hartman, seconded by Commissioner Evans, to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. Motion passed unanimously with Chairperson Law and Commissioners, Emigh, Evans, Hartman and Leary voting yes.



Chairperson Law

ATTEST:



Ashley Salyers, Recording Secretary