

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE
SALINAS HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD
August 5, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. in the City Hall Rotunda.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chairperson Hirahara, Vice Chairperson Mazgai, Board Members Callender, Shim and Munoz

ABSENT: Board Member Wadsworth

STAFF: Planning Manager, Grant Leonard, and Associate Planner, Jessica Shull

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Opened for public comment at 12:01 p.m.

Closed for public comment at 12:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: July 1, 2024 ID #24-449

Board Member Mazgai motioned to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2024, meeting. Board Member Munoz seconded this motion.

AYES: Chairperson Hirahara, Vice Chairperson Mazgai, Board Members Callender, Shim and Munoz

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Board Member Wadsworth

This motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

CONSIDERATIONS: Annual Election of Historic Resources Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked if there were any volunteers for the position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Board Member Callender: Nominated Chairperson Hirahara for the position.

Chairperson Hirahara: Agreed to another term as Chairperson.

Board Member Munoz: Nominated Michael Mazgai as Vice-Chairperson

Board Member Shim motioned to approve the nominations of Larry Hirahara as Chairperson and Michael Mazgai as Vice-Chairperson. Board Member Munoz seconded this motion.

AYES: Chairperson Hirahara, Vice Chairperson Mazgai, Board Members Callender, Shim and Munoz

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Board Member Wadsworth

This motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OTHER BUSINESS: Plaque Program Subcommittee Report

Board Member Mazgai: Discussed the definitions for Restoration, Renovation, and Remodeling that had been identified to recognize individuals or organizations that had completed preservation work in Salinas. These definitions would be for those who have saved a historic structure from being destroyed or defaced, accomplished a major restoration or renovation of a historic structure, or by special efforts has furthered the ideals of historic preservation in Salinas. Projects must follow current federal guidelines for Restoration and Renovation to be considered for recognition.

Board Member Munoz: Added that as buildings are repainted, they must be considerate of the color palate of the period.

Board Member Mazgai: Asked for comments on the proposed definitions.

Board Member Callender: Answered that he agreed with the proposed definitions.

Chairperson Hirahara: Stated that he thought the definitions were concise. He questioned how individuals would be recognized.

Board Member Munoz: Answered that a question is who will pay for the plaque or certificates. He encouraged the City to create a fund for this recognition. This fund could be use for matching grants in the future. Monterey County Historical Society could be a partner.

Board Member Callender: Asked if City Staff was aware of any grants that are available for historic preservation.

Jessica Shull, Associate Planner: Answered that she had recently been a state round of grants that required matching funds and required funds to be spent very quickly. A project would have to be underway prior to getting the funds.

Board Member Callender: Discussed the option of creating a fund that would match funds with a property owner to apply for a plaque, so the property owner is not taking on all the cost.

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked if the proposed fund could be a budget item in the future.

Grant Leonard, Planning Manager: Answered that it's a possibility that could be included in a future budget request.

Chairperson Hirahara: Mentioned that the number of plaques and an estimate of costs would be needed.

Board Member Mazgai: Discussed moving forward with the certificate type of recognition. The plaque program would be more complicated. He suggested that the sub-committee provide examples to City Staff that could then be shared to the board. Then continue to do more research on establishing a plaque program getting into more specifics on what the plaque should look like.

Chairperson Hirahara: Stated that it seems there will be phases to this project. Initially approving a certificate program and then moving forward with the plaque program.

Chairperson Hirahara: Is supportive of approving the sub-committee report and recommend that certificates be developed.

Board Member Mazgai: Suggested that HRB work with city staff to create the certificate and get any necessary approvals.

Chairperson Hirahara: Opened the discussion for public comment. No public comment was received.

Board Member Munoz: Suggested that the board work to update the existing walking tours so that in the future a digital component can be added.

Board Member Mazgai: Discussed creating a list of murals and an inventory of art and historical objects in Salinas.

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked if there was a definition of the objects or resources.

Board Member Mazgai: Answered that the city website has a few resources available.

Chairperson Hirahara: Recommended that the board approve the Plaque Sub-Committee report, the definitions discussed and to establish a certificate program to recognize historic resources in Salinas. With the next steps being to establish a plaque program and to look at expanding the historic resources inventory.

Board Member Callender motioned to accept the Plaque Sub-Committee report and an additional recommendation that the city establish a certificate program to recognize those that had completed preservation work in Salinas. Board Member Shim seconded this motion.

AYES: Chairperson Hirahara, Vice Chairperson Mazgai, Board Members Callender, Shim and Munoz

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Board Member Wadsworth

This motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked that the discussion for an expanded historic resources inventory and an update to the existing walking tours be added to an upcoming meeting agenda.

FOLLOW UP REPORTS

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked for an update to the Mills Act Program.

Jessica Shull, Associate Planner: Answered that the program has been approved and that the application deadline for this calendar year had passed without any applications. Staff will get Mills Act information on the website.

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked about the application process and who would be processing the applications.

Jessica Shull, Associate Planner: Answered that the process is still being worked out but that currently she will be responsible for handling the applications.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Potential Art Initiative

Board Member Shim: Discussed the art initiative changing from a contest to a walking tour with an art component that could be offered to city residents. The tour and research could be done by board members.

Board Member Mazgai: Stated that he liked that this type of program has a greater longevity. He discussed the walking tour for the Steinbeck District that needs to be updated.

Board Member Shim: Stated that she would be willing to organize the project.

Board Member Munoz: Asked Board Member Shim to draft a proposal of how to move forward with the project.

Board Member Mazgai: Asked who the project would be presented to.

Board Member Shim: Answered that the tour could be open to anyone.

Board Member Mazgai: Discussed narrowing down the specifics of the program, what would be required from the city to enact this.

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked how this idea fits into the goals of the Historic Resources Board.

Board Member Munoz: Discussed that while updating the existing tours they remember to include what used to be on a site.

Board Member Shim: Answered that the tour provides a way to educate residents about the story behind the historic resources in Salinas.

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked if the board members will be the ones completing the research and organizing the tours.

Board Member Shim: Answered that the board members would be responsible for researching the information that would be provided on the tour.

Board Member Mazgai: Discussed the need for these tours to be self-guided as well to extend their longevity.

Chairperson Hirahara: Discussed that are existing resources available to build on.

Board Member Mazgai: Discussed the City of Watsonville's online tours.

Board Member Mazgai: Mentioned that the library used to provide tours and that they may be a good resource moving forward.

General Plan Update

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked about the ITC Master Plan Process.

Jessica Shull, Associate Planner: Answered that the ITC Plan is a separate process from the General Plan.

Chairperson Hirahara: Asked about the historic resources on the site and how they would be addressed.

Grant Leonard, Planning Manager: Discussed that staff would be providing a study session on the General Plan update, focusing on historic resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Confirmation of attendance for next regular meeting on September 9, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Larry Hirahara
Chairperson

Jessica Shull
Executive Secretary