

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE
SALINAS HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD
March 3, 2025**

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 Wadsworth, and Shim

ABSENT: Callender

STAFF: Planning Manager, Grant Leonard, Community Outreach Assistant, Bianca Arizmendi, and Assistant Planner, Yesenia Segovia

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: February 3, 25 ID #25-047

Board Member Mazagi pointed out a minor typo, noting that the meeting date for the consultant's attendance should be March 3rd, not March 4th. After the correction, Board Member Shim motioned to approve the minutes, and Board Member Wadsworth seconded the motion.

AYES: Chairperson Hirahara, Vice Chairperson Mazgai, Board Members Wadsworth, Shim

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Board Member Callender

This motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

CONSENT

ID #25-048 2023-2024 Certified Local Government Annual Report

Grant Leonard: Presented the Certified Local Government annual report to the board, highlighting key information such as board and staff members, training completed, and public outreach. He mentioned the report is submitted annually and invited questions.

Board Member Shim: Noted a correction in the attendance section, stating that he attended the July meeting, despite it being listed otherwise.

Grant Leonard: Acknowledged the correction and agreed to update the report.

Chair Hirahara: Inquired about the inclusion of training hours in the report.

Grant Leonard: Confirmed that training hours were listed for each training event.

Board Member Mazgai: Pointed out missing answers to specific questions in the report, including whether the local government had a historic preservation regulatory law and staff review for local projects.

Grant Leonard: Agreed to make the corrections and update the report.

Board Member Shim: Asked if future reports would require individual educational trainings to be listed, and whether personal training events, like attending the Society of California Pioneers or other relevant historical events, could count toward required training hours.

Grant Leonard: Clarified that the report only lists city-sponsored trainings and confirmed he would look into whether personal educational activities could count and follow up.

Board Member Mazgai: Asked for clarification on whether training credits were required or if general learning experiences, like attending historical society events, could be counted.

Grant Leonard: Acknowledged the need for clarification and promised to follow up.

Chair Hirahara: Asked Grant to verify the answers for E1 and F in the report and report back before submission, as the report was due by April 1st.

Grant Leonard: Agreed to verify and provide the correct information.

Chair Hirahara: Confirmed that the Certified Local Government program was in compliance and thanked Grant. Moved on to finalize the certificate of appreciation templates.

Chair Hirahara: Asked if there were any other questions about the Certified Local Government program, confirming the program was in compliance. Moved on to the final approval of the certificate of appreciation program templates, noting they had previously discussed the color and confirmed it was in color. Asked for any final comments and confirmed the templates had been approved last time.

Grant Leonard: Confirmed that the templates were just for reference.

Chair Hirahara: Acknowledged the confirmation and moved on to the consideration of the historic survey update and historic context statement outline.

CONSIDERATIONS

ID#25-050 Historic Survey Update and Historic Context Statement Outline

Grant Leonard: Introduced consultants from Paige and Turnbull, highlighting their presentation on the historic context statement and survey update for Salinas.

Stacy Kozakiewicz: Introduced herself as a project manager and historian at Paige and Turnbull. Provided a brief overview of the historic context statement, clarifying that it was not a complete history of Salinas but an overview of its development from early settlement to the recent past. Explained its purpose: to provide a common framework for evaluating historic resources within the city.

Barret Reiter: Discussed seven identified periods of Salinas's history, emphasizing significant themes and architectural styles. Highlighted how these themes would be woven into their chronological approach in the draft outline.

Stacy Kozakiewicz: Explained their methodical approach to developing the historic context statement, including research, public outreach, and a windshield survey to assess neighborhoods.

Board Member Mazgai: Asked about challenges in working with a 36-year-old survey and expressed concern about public accessibility to this information, especially regarding properties on the historic inventory that locals might not know about.

Stacy Kozakiewicz: Replied that the 1989 survey was robust and provided a solid foundation. Mentioned they would focus on updating and adding information, particularly concerning changing preservation priorities.

Barret Reiter: Acknowledged that the city had grown, which necessitated a more in-depth survey.

Board Member Mazgai: Emphasized the importance of local feedback in identifying significant historical areas that were previously overlooked.

Stacy Kozakiewicz: Clarified that while they aimed to identify significant properties, the focus would mainly be on built structures, though they would also consider notable signs or street furniture if they contributed meaningfully to a district.

Board Member Shim: Inquired whether there would be projections for new districts or adjustments to existing boundaries based on their findings.

Stacy Kozakiewicz: Affirmed that both adjustments to boundaries and recommendations for new districts could arise from the survey.

Chair Hirahara: Brought attention to how cities would inform the community of historic significance and context of local sites, such as the jail pertaining to the UFW.

Barret Reiter: Enabled the use of a mobile app for recording data during the windshield survey, aimed at improving accuracy and tracking.

Chair Hirahara: Concluded discussions, inviting any last questions before moving on to the next agenda items.

OTHER BUSINESS:

California Preservation Foundation Membership

Chair Hirahara: Asked Grant about the California Preservation Foundation membership and if he had assisted with it.

Grant Leonard: Confirmed that he was in the process of completing the paperwork for the membership and would provide an update once they became members.

Permit Process and Flagging Historic Resources

Grant Leonard: Stated they were moving forward with an audit on the permitting system and flagging of historic resources, with the new planner taking on this assignment.

Chair Hirahara: Asked if the new planner would provide an outline after becoming active.

Grant Leonard: Confirmed that they would report back on the findings from the audit.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Empire House Project

Chair Hirahara: Asked for an update on the Empire House project.

Grant Leonard: Stated that he had planned a formal presentation but was delayed due to being out of the office. He suggested discussing it next month after reaching out to the property owner.

Board Member Mazgai: Emphasized that the discussion should focus on the house itself, not just the ramp project, as that was the greater concern.

Grant Leonard: Mentioned that he and Bianca had been researching the Empire House's status on the National Register. They found evidence it may have been registered in the past, but it currently wasn't listed. They were still investigating.

Chair Hirahara: Confirmed that it was not on the National Register.

Grant Leonard: Clarified that there was documentation for an application but the house wasn't listed.

Board Member Mazgai: Expressed surprise that the house was no longer on the National Register and suggested they continue researching.

Grant Leonard: Agreed and mentioned that consultants had requested the address for the Empire House and offered assistance for research.

Chair Hirahara: Asked for the address.

Board Member Mazgai: Thought the address was in the 100 block of Cayuga, possibly 119, and would verify.

Grant Leonard: Confirmed 119 as the correct address.

Chair Hirahara: Confirmed the address and asked if there was anything else to discuss before the HRB.

Board Member Shim: Asked if she would be on the agenda to present about historic Chinatown in April.

Chair Hirahara: Stated that there was nothing else scheduled at the moment, only the Empire House presentation.

Board Member Shim: Requested a time window for her presentation, as he had 60 slides prepared.

Chair Hirahara: Suggested 15 minutes for the presentation.

Board Member Shim: Agreed, noting it would be a PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Hirahara: Confirmed the format would be PowerPoint.

ADJOURNMENT

Confirmation of attendance for next regular meeting on April 7, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Larry Hirahara
Chairperson

Grant Leonard
Executive Secretary