



MINUTES

**Landmark Preservation Commission
Regular Session**

**Public Meeting
Council Briefing Room**

**Thursday, May 12, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

Commissioners Present

Kristina Rumans, Chair
Barbara Reber, Vice-Chair
Geraldine Mills
Rodrick Penson
Cheryl Donaldson
O.K. Carter

Absent

Jason Sullivan
Shirley Patterson
Matthew Baker

Staff

Sarah Stubblefield
Anthony Cisneros
Cindy Harding

I. Call to Order – Chair Rumans called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Announcements

Commissioner Mills announced that the Arlington Historical Society had posted an article entitled “Great Women of Arlington” which was available to view on the website.

Chair Rumans invited the group to join her on Wednesday, May 18th at 8:30 am in cleaning grave markers at the old Arlington Cemetery on Mary Street.

IV. Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2022

Vice-Chair Reber moved to approve the April 14, 2022, minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Mills, the minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Demolition Permit Applications

1. 433 N. East Street

Mr. Cisneros gave a presentation on the home built in the 1930’s and listed as a Low Priority Resource. The property is adjacent to the Old Town Historic District and is currently zoned Entertainment District Overlay – Residential Medium Density-12 (EDO-RM-12). The home is located on a large 1.77-acre lot with many mature trees and heavy undergrowth which provides shelter for homeless campsites. Commissioner Penson had visited the site and said that the pictures presented did not show the extent of the dilapidated condition of the structures. Mr. Ty Howerton, an architect with H2H Plans, was present to answer questions if needed. He stated that the owner wished to re-develop the lot for townhomes by demolishing the structures and clearing the undergrowth while leaving the large trees.

Vice-Chair Reber moved to approve the release of 433 N. East Street back to the City. Seconded by Commissioner Penson, the motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Why I Serve Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Carter stated that he had been in Arlington for over 50 years, taught high school history and served as an editor of the Arlington Citizen Journal, but did not see himself as a historian until he was asked to re-write a book about Arlington's history through 1910 written in 1976 by Arista Joyner, co-founder of the Arlington Museum of Art. Commissioner Carter enjoys storytelling and was fortunate to know many of the best historians in Arlington.

Commissioner Mills grew up in Arlington and enjoyed playing outdoors near her family home on Dugan Street and along Johnson Creek as well as helping her family with a newspaper route. She has witnessed many changes over her lifetime and got interested in history as she experienced meeting people in her hometown. In the 1990's she served on the Johnson Creek Project, meeting volunteers with the Arlington Historical Society (AHS) and getting involved with the Fielder House Museum.

VII. Local Landmark Research & Application Process Workshop

Postponed to the next meeting when all commissioners may be present.

VIII. Work Plan Items

1. Local landmarks: Sandstone Houses Collaborative Research for 314 Orange Street

Chair Rumans suggested the group postpone this item until the next meeting.

Commissioner Mills moved to approve postponement to the June 9, 2022, meeting. Seconded by, Vice-Chair Reber the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Local Landmarks: Arlington Cemetery Markers Update

Ms. Stubblefield noted that three members are working on the QR codes to connect with points of interest in the cemetery, bringing up either text or audio on smart phones. Commissioner Carter and Commissioner Sullivan will write the brief articles and Commissioner Baker will link the info to the QR codes. The LPC will work with the Parks and Public Works Departments and there should be little to no cost involved in the implementation.

3. Local landmarks: Birds Fort Update

Commissioner Mills noted that there was renewed interest in the Birds Fort Centennial marker being restored as well as the possibility of a history center located on the site. She introduced Brian Burns, a member of the AHS, and he spoke about the mission of the newly formed Friends of Birds Fort. He praised Arlington as America's largest Mid-City, attracting corporate giants and entertainment industry; however, he felt that Arlington should receive more recognition for its vital role in the history of north Texas. In the Texas Centennial Year of 1936, a historical marker was placed at Birds Fort by the State of Texas. The marker is a historic relic and needs to be restored and reset in the Viridian development on Lake Calloway. It was noted that the only three Centennial markers in Tarrant County are all located in Arlington.

M.C. Toyer also spoke to the Commission stating that he had a personal interest in the Birds Fort marker as the great, great, great grandson of John Beeman and the great,

great grandson of William Beeman, two of the Rangers who helped built the Fort. He had recently seen the original marker and knew that it could be repaired and on display again. Commissioner Mills had contacted the State to begin the process of making it accessible to the public again.

Ron Reber, a former LPC Commissioner and Chairperson, stated that he had been in touch with the Armentrout Family, who had owned the Birds Fort property since the 1920's, and they had historic records and documents on the 100 acres around Lake Calloway and the Birds Fort area. It was suggested that the family be encouraged to donate those documents to a preservation group for safe keeping.

Commissioner Penson volunteered to serve as a liaison to the AHS and the Friends of Birds Fort group regarding ground rules and plans for the Birds Fort Marker restoration.

4. Other Local Marker Program Items

A Local Marker Application for trees will be presented in the future.

IX. Historic Preservation Officer Report

All of the activities previously set on the May calendar for Historic Preservation Month have been occurring on schedule; however, the annual LPC proclamation will not be given at the City Council Meeting on May 24, 2022.

The LPC meeting scheduled for September 8, 2022, would need to be rescheduled and Council would need to give approval of the new date.

X. Public Forum

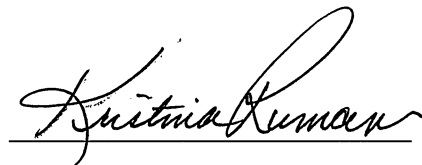
None

XI. Future Agenda Items – June 9, 2022

“Why I Serve” comments from each member – Ms. Stubblefield will assign monthly
Birds Fort
Historic Trees (July)
Discussion of Potential Lecture Series

XII. Adjourn

Chair Rumans adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.



Kristina Rumans, Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary to the Commission
APPROVED this 9th day of June 2022

