



El Presidio Historic Zone Advisory Board
Thursday, August 28, 2023, at 6:00PM
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes/Legal Action Report

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members present: Susan Aiken (Co-Chair), Ilya Sloan (Co-Chair), Alex Oberlick, Anita Rankin, Drew Cook, Siri Trumble and Halley Freitas (arrived at 6:15PM). A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:06PM.

Guests present: Chris Stebe and Guy Dobbins

Staff present: Jodie Brown (PDSO) and Stephen Addison (CMO)

2. Approval of LAR/Minutes - June 22, 2023

Motion was made by Rankin to approve the minutes of June 22, 2023, duly seconded by Cook and was passed by a voice vote of 6-0.

3. Call to the Audience

None.

4. Reviews

a. TP-PRE-0823-00290, Activate El Presidio, Multiple locations within the El Presidio HPZ

Installation of lighting, street art, plantings and site furnishings at various locations in El Presidio.

Courtesy Review/Contributing Resource

The project was presented by Chris Stebe of Norris Design. The project involves street furniture, street painting, installation of lighting and plants at various locations throughout El Presidio.

The board members had several questions/comments about the project.

- What about parking for the museum?
 - It will still be accessible.
- What about the north side of the artisan area?
 - It will remain.
- Is it possible to move the kiosk to place it in front of a more modern building?
 - Park-Wise will determine.

- Is it possible to look at different pots that are more consistent with the existing ones in the neighborhood?
 - Yes, more of a terracotta blend.
- Who will maintain and replace these items?
 - Agreements would be in place prior to the work being done. Could be surrounding owners or could be Rio Nuevo.
- Should consider leaving the existing plants rather than removing them.
 - Met with management and determined that those plants are overgrown.
- Are sidewalk aprons also being redone?
 - No
- It is hard to paint the streets without repair to the roads. Some areas are in poor condition.
 - Street repair is not part of the project.
- Have you talked to the Tucson Museum of Art?
 - Yes, they have seen the plans and provided comments.
- Have some concern about planters/plants blocking view of the buildings and impacting the residential character.
- The streets and the streetscape are significant.
- It is terrific improvement to change the throughfare into a walkable area which is an attribute. Should be in character with the neighborhood.
- Washington is an important streetscape however there is no tie-in with the existing courtyard. Very varied use of elements.
 - Broken into two areas-family vs. casual/passive, the center connects to the businesses.
- Any thought to make all seating moveable? Seems very busy. Are those permanent?
 - Picnic tables are on a built deck with shade, so they are not moveable.
- Why was making them fixed desirable? What was the thinking?
 - Balance of fixed vs. moveable for ease of use, easy to clean and does not have to be moved in every night.
- A lighting consultant helping string the lights, so they have minimal impact.
- Wooden structures in the street?
 - Correct, the sidewalks are clear.
- Why can't you use moveable umbrellas?
 - Owners are replacing 2 a week, they are looking for something sturdier.
- Concerned about the materials of wood and steel?
 - The proposed materials have been used traditionally in El Presidio.
- Covering buildings with new elements is a shame, but it is a give and take.
- There should be a reconsideration of fixed seating areas with roofs.
- Agreed, they don't fit into Washington.
- Should reconsider the lighting scheme as it incorporates existing parking meters, not embracing the district's historic character but further emphasizing the meters with poles.
 - Acknowledgement of historic lighting should be considered. Where it is too dim, new lighting will be added to address safety.

No action was taken on the project as it was docketed as a courtesy review.

5. Staff Updates—Information Only

Staff provided an update on the commission separation and mentioned that staff was starting to do hybrid meetings. If they are interested in doing hybrid meetings, staff would work with them to set it up.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.