

**Design and Historic Review Commission Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2023**

A meeting of the City of Yuma Design and Historic Review Commission was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at City Hall Council Chambers, One City Plaza, Yuma, Arizona.

**DESIGN AND HISTORIC REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS** present included Chairman Tom Rushin, Commissioners Chris Hamel, James Sheldahl, Juan Leal-Rubio, William Moody and Sandra Anthony. Vice Chairman Amanda Coltman was absent.

**STAFF MEMBERS** present included Alyssa Linville, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services; Jennifer Albers, Assistant Director of Planning; Robert Blevins, Principal Planner; Amelia Domby, Senior Planner; Erika Peterson, Associate Planner; Zenia Fiveash, Assistant Planner; Guillermo Moreno-nunez, Assistant Planner; Meredith Burns, Assistant Planner; John LeSueur, Assistant City Attorney and Alejandro Marquez, Administrative Specialist.

**Chairman Tom Rushin** called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted there was a quorum present.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

October 11, 2023

**Motion by Commissioner William Moody, second by Commissioner James Sheldahl to APPROVE the minutes of October 11, 2023. Motion carried unanimously, (6-0) with one absent.**

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**ITEMS REQUIRING COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**DHRC-41927-2023:** *This is a request by Andrew and Yesenia Gianaros for historic review of the renovation of an existing building and new signage for a medical office, Optimal Care & Wellness, in the Brinley Avenue Historic District, for the property located at 72 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yuma, AZ.*

**Amelia Domby, Senior Planner** summarized the staff report and recommended **APPROVAL**.

**QUESTIONS FOR STAFF**

**Commissioner William Moody** asked if the front door was going to be farther to the west side of the building. **Domby** replied yes, and that the front door will be closed off and the applicant will install a new 36-inch commercial door.

**Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio** referred to the site plan on page # 6, and then asked what do the colors represent. **Domby** answered the blue is the main water line, green is the sewer main line, and the orange is the main electrical panel.

**Commissioner Sandra Anthony** commented that she was glad to see that the building was being upgraded.

**APPLICANT / APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE**

**Yesenia Gianaros, 3621 S. Victoria Way, Yuma, AZ**, stated that she was excited to open a clinic in the downtown area, and then made herself available for questions.

**Commissioner William Moody** asked if the basement was going to be used for the clinic. **Gianaros** replied that the basement was to be used as storage.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**Motion by Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio, second by Commissioner Chris Hamel, to APPROVE Case Number DHRC-41927-2023 as presented. Motion carried unanimously, (6-0) with one absent.**

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## COMMISSION DISCUSSION

“Side Trips”: A short presentation on the smaller historic sites with a focus on a particular location.

**Robert Blevins, Principal Planner**, gave a presentation on the restoration of “The Church and The Brown House” located at 256 and 268 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

**Commissioner James Sheldahl** commented that he was pleased to see that some of the historic features of the building were preserved.

**Chairman Tom Rushin** thanked the owner (Carolyn Malouff) on restoring the building.

**Carolyn Malouff, 593 S 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yuma, AZ**, also gave a presentation on the restoration of “The Church and The Brown House”, and then made herself available for questions.

**Commissioner Sandra Anthony** asked if the building was made of adobe brick. **Malouff** replied yes. **Commissioner Sandra Anthony** then asked what type of church was the building used for before it became a venue. **Malouff** answered that the building was a Methodist Church, then introduced Chelsea Malouff to answer any questions about the building.

**Chelsea Malouff, 593 S 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yuma, AZ**, stated that the building was made of adobe brick, and it was the first Methodist Church located between Yuma, Arizona and Brawley, California.

**Commissioner William Moody** asked if the building was also the first Protestant Church in Yuma. **Chelsea Malouff** answered yes, and then stated that the original church was made of wood then it was covered by brick afterward.

**Commissioner Chris Hamel** asked if the owner was using the original flooring. **Carolyn Malouff** replied no.

**Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio** thanked Carolyn Malouff for the work she has done to restore the building, and then asked what the occupancy for the venue was. **Chelsea Malouff** answered it was 100 with chairs and tables, 200 standing, and the patio was 88.

**Carolyn Malouff** then stated that she was happy to restore the building.

**Commissioner William Moody** also thanked Malouff on the work she had done on restoring the buildings.

**Chairman Tom Rushin** thanked Malouff for investing in the community and the historic areas.

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## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Staff

**Blevins** stated that the following Wednesday the City will be launching the Historic Districts Web Map, and that at the next hearing (December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023) there would be a presentation from the GIS department about the map. **Commissioner William Moody** asked if a link could be emailed to the Commission. **Blevins** answered yes.

### Administrative Approvals

Historic District

**DHRC-31141-2020:** *This is a request by Carolyn M. Malouff, for exterior water heater screening, for "The Church, a Historic Venue", an Individually-listed property, located at 256 S. 1st Avenue, in the Old Town/Historic Overlay (OT/H) District.*

**Chairman Tom Rushin acknowledged the Administrative Approvals.**

**National Heritage Area**

**Chairman Tom Rushin** stated the Heritage Area will make a presentation in the near future.

**Commission**

None

**Public Comment**

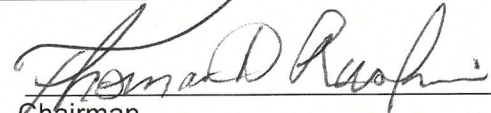
None

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Minutes approved this 13 day of December, 2023.

  
Chairman