

**Design and Historic Review Commission Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2024**

A meeting of the City of Yuma Design and Historic Review Commission was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at City Hall Council Chambers, One City Plaza, Yuma, Arizona.

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

STAFF MEMBERS present included Alyssa Linville, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services; Robert Blevins, Principal Planner; Amelia Domby, Senior Planner; Guillermo Moreno-nunez, Assistant Planner; Zenia Fiveash, 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 4:02 p.m. and noted there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 24, 2024

Motion by Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio, second by Commissioner Chris Hamel to APPROVE the minutes of April 24, 2024. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0) with three absent.

ITEMS REQUIRING COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

DHRC-42781-2024: *This is a request by the City of Yuma for review of a new wall-mounted (blade) sign for the Yuma Art Center in the Main Street Historic District. The property is located at 254 S. Main Street, Yuma, AZ.*

Robert Blevins, Principal Planner summarized the staff report and recommended **APPROVAL**.

QUESTIONS FOR STAFF

Commissioner Sandra Anthony asked if the proposed sign was going to be illuminated. **Blevins** replied yes.

APPLICANT / APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE

Ana Padilla, 942 W. Solana Drive, Yuma, AZ, was available for questions.

Alex Tipton, 584 W. 37th Street, Yuma, AZ, was available for questions.

Commissioner Chris Hamel stated that he was impressed with the design of the new sign and that it added to the improvement of the aesthetics of the downtown area.

Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio asked which contractor would be installing the proposed sign. **Tipton** replied Signmasters was in charge of the sign, and that Merrill Construction would oversee the construction. **Commissioner Leal-Rubio** then asked who designed the sign. **Padilla** replied that staff presented some ideas to Signmasters who then came up with the design. **Commissioner Leal-Rubio** asked if the ideas came from a committee. **Padilla** replied yes.

Commissioner Sandra Anthony commented that the style of the sign looks similar to the Yuma Historic Theater. **Padilla** replied that the sign does reflect some of the style of the theater.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Motion by Commissioner Chris Hamel, second by Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio, to APPROVE Case Number DHRC-42781-2024 as presented. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0) with three absent.

DHRC-42464-2024: *This is a request by Innov-R LLC, on behalf of Peter and Ana Rodriguez, for aesthetic review of the exterior appearance of P.R. Equipment Services, in the Heavy Industrial/Aesthetic Overlay/Airport Overlay (H-I/AO/AD) District located at the 3273 S. Joanie Avenue, Yuma, AZ*

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

QUESTIONS FOR STAFF

Commissioner Chris Hamel asked if the rear of the property was going to be an enclosed yard with two gateways. **Domby** replied yes.

Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio asked if the property was within a platted subdivision. **Domby** replied yes, the property was within the River Marine Lot Split Subdivision. **Commissioner Leal-Rubio** asked if the property was part of a Lot Split and then later separated from the subdivision. **Domby** replied no.

APPLICANT / APPLICANT’S REPRESENTATIVE

Victor Guzman, 670 E. 32nd Street, Yuma, Az, was available for questions.

Peter Rodriguez, 4023 W. 22nd Lane, Yuma, AZ, was available for questions.

Commissioner Chris Hamel commented that he was in favor of the overall design of the proposed project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Motion by Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio, second by Commissioner Chris Hamel, to APPROVE Case Number DHRC-42464-2024 as presented. Motion carried unanimously, (4-0) with three absent.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Tiffany Anderson, Yuma County Facilities Management Director, gave a presentation on “The proposed design of the Yuma County Historic Courthouse Xeriscape Landscaping Project”.

Commissioner Chris Hamel commented that the timeline for all the improvements was aggressive. **Commissioner Hamel** then asked why Sissoo trees were selected for some of the projects, because they typically have an aggressive root system. **Anderson** replied that the trees would be planted far enough away from the buildings so the roots were not a concern, and then stated that type of tree was selected because of the shade it provides.

Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio asked if an approved landscaping design was going to be presented to commission for approval. **Anderson** replied no, they were not planning to. **Commissioner Leal-Rubio** recommended a courtesy review. **Anderson** replied that a courtesy review would be taken under consideration.

Commissioner Sandra Anthony asked if the area off of Giss Parkway near the freeway where the palms trees are located was under county jurisdiction. **Commissioner Anthony** went on to say that the reason why she is asking is because the area is very overgrown and needed some attention. **Anderson** replied no, that it may be under the city or highways jurisdiction.

Robert Blevins displayed an aerial photo and site plan of 433 S. 1st Avenue.

Christopher Thompson, on behalf of the Housing Authority of The City of Yuma, gave a presentation on the current building conditions at 433 S. 1st Avenue.

Commissioner Chris Hamel agreed with Thompsons evaluation and decision to demolish the building. **Commissioner Chris Hamel** went on to say that he does not like that a historic building would have to be demolished but understands that it would be unsafe and very costly to repair. **Thompson** stated that at a previous hearing a design of the new building had been presented to the commission, and that it was similar in style to the current building and the surrounding neighborhood. **Thompson** also commented that HACY also understands the historical significance of the building and did not want to demolish the home.

Commissioner Chris Hamel stated with these old homes it is hard to tell the type of damage they have until the walls are torn down and floors are opened up. **Thompson** agreed, and then stated the more they removed sections of the building the more damage they encountered. **Commissioner Hamel** thanked Thompson for his effort it took to try to preserve the building and for the true assessment presented to the commission so that a decision could be made. **Thompson** stated that HACY's intent was to rehabilitate but unfortunately the building could not be saved.

Commissioner Juan Leal-Rubio stated he respects Thompsons decision to demolish, and glad that HACY will pay its respect to the history of the current building. **Thompson** replied that new building will represent the history and look of the old building by using some of its current design elements.

Commissioner Sandra Anthony was in agreement with Commissioner Hamel and Commissioner Leal-Rubio.

Chairman Tom Rushin concurred with the commission, and then asked Blevins for information on the previous case that was presented to the commission about the building since he was not present at that particular hearing. **Blevins** then presented some slides and referred to the demolition permit from 2006 and noted that there was no expiration date, and that the commission could ask legal if there were ways to stop or let the demolition proceed.

John LeSueur, Assistant City Attorney, stated that each order which does not have an expiration date continues to exist until it is rescinded, so the 2006 demolition permit would still be operative unless the commission notices to take action to rescind that authorization and since that notice was not on today's agenda no action could be taken.

Chairman Tom Rushin stated that the Commission was supportive of the demolition request.

Blevins referred to an email that was sent to the commission that contained a pamphlet on what happens when Federal Funding affects historic properties named "Historic Preservation Section 106" and gave a brief presentation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Staff

None

Administrative Approvals

Aesthetic Overlay

DHRC-42103-2023: *This is a request by Westerner Products, on behalf of Sharon L. Miller, for two new awnings for the property located at 1463 E. 10th Street, in the General Commercial/Aesthetic Overlay (B-2/AO).*

Chairman Tom Rushin acknowledged the Administrative Approvals

Robert Blevins gave a presentation on the "Demolition Request Listing 2012-2024".

National Heritage Area

None

Commission

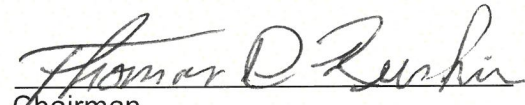
Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Minutes approved this 26 day of June, 2024.


Chairman