City of Lockhart
Historical Preservation Commission
September 7, 2022

MINUTES

Members Present: Christine Ohlendorf, Ronda Reagan, Michel Royal, John Lairsen, Ron Faulstich

Member Absent: Ray Ramsey

Staff Present: Yvette Aguado, Kevin Waller, David Fowler, Dan Gibson

Public Present: None

1. Call meeting to order. Chair Reagan called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Citizen comments not related to an agenda item. None

3. Consider the minutes of the August 17, 2022, Meeting.

Chair Reagan requested the insertion of the following comments:

1. Insert comment on page 2, after paragraph 3, where Commissioner Ohlendorf asks if all agreed that murals should not be allowed within the Historic District. At that point, three of the five said they preferred no murals in the Historic District. Commissioners Royal and Ohlendorf and Chair Reagan were opposed to the murals in Historic District. No motion was made and therefore, no vote.
2. Insert comment on page 3, after paragraph 3, Commissioner Ohlendorf suggested that no mural should be allowed that could be seen from the courthouse.

Commissioner Ohlendorf moved to approve the amended minutes. Commissioner Royal seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

4. Continue discussion regarding potential mural regulation standards and guidelines, including review of draft mural ordinance language.

Planning Staff David Fowler stated that at the July 6, 2022, Historical Preservation Commission meeting an application for a Certificate for Alteration for a mural at 115 North Commerce Street was tabled, due to a perceived need for guidelines for murals in the historical district. In response to feedback received at meeting and from individual Commissioners, Staff drafted mural ordinance provisions for possible referral to the City Council. He explained that if the proposed language is recommended to Council, the next step would be to codify the language for review at a future City Council meeting. The Commission would also have the option of reviewing a revised mural ordinance prior to referring it to City Council. Mr. Fowler added that the intent is to provide guidelines and procedures for the applications for review of proposed murals within the Lockhart Historic District to ensure orderly review of applications, while preserving and protecting the historic character and unique identity of the City's downtown area. Mr. Fowler utilized a PowerPoint presentation and answered Commissioners' questions.

Discussion ensued regarding mural guidelines and standards in the Historic District.

Mr. Fowler shared a suggestion that the Commission could include the definition of a mural in the Historic and Sign Ordinances, and have a clause to not allow murals within the Historic District.

Vice-Chair Lairsen explained that he understands that the City Council has directed the Commission to establish mural guidelines, but wonders if it might be possible to recommend that murals not be allowed within the Historic District.

Mr. Fowler replied that the City Council will likely expect review standards for murals. He stated that there are two issues. One is to define murals and standards for the Historic District, and the other being the same for areas of the city outside the District. In addition, there should perhaps be restrictions on whether murals can be seen from residential structures.

Mr. Gibson stated that the Council asked for guidelines from the Commission with the understanding that they are to apply to the Historic District, but could expand to the rest of the city in some form. The problem is that the Council can come up with their own guidelines that the Commission might not agree with. So, the options are to recommend that murals not be allowed within the Historic District, or allowed where not visible from the courthouse and library.

Chairwoman Reagan asked for Commissioners' input.

Commissioner Royal stated that she hopes that murals become prohibited within the Historic District.

Commissioner Ohlendorf explained that the Commission is charged with the preservation of the Historic District, and that does not include adding murals in the District. Ohlendorf added that she doesn't disagree with the placement of murals in other locations of the city and doesn't mind helping to craft guidelines, but murals should not be located within the Historic District.

Chair Reagan stated that the Commission was appointed to protect the Historic District, and that she doesn't feel that there is a place for murals in the District.

Vice-Chair Lairsen shared that if there are specific locations and established guidelines for the murals, he would be in favor. He added that the City should be responsible for enforcement of the maintenance of the murals. Lairsen would like to see the art in permitted locations that don't change the appearance of the Historic District.

Commissioner Faulstich stated that he agreed with all Commissioner Ohlendorf stated. He too felt that they were commissioned to preserve the Historic District. Faulstich added that he has walked around the downtown area and spoken with business owners, and they, too, mentioned that murals would not appropriate within the Historic District. He realizes that change is coming to Lockhart, but that the Historic District should be preserved.

5. Continue discussion on the potential development of City-designated Historic Landmark placards for placement on identified Historic Landmark structures.

   Commissioner Faulstich shared pictures of Historic Landmark placards from other cities, and provided cost estimates for placard manufacture.

   Discussion continued regarding type, price, and who would fund the placards.

   Mr. Waller stated that the placards should be added to the agenda of the next meeting as an action item.

6. Discuss the date and agenda of the next meeting, including Commission requests for agenda items.

   Chair Reagan asked how the violation she reported to staff was going to be handled.

   Mr. Waller replied that he would contact the property owner to correct the violation within a specified timeframe, and if compliance isn't achieved by the deadline, Staff would then work with the City Attorney for escalation.

   Chair Reagan asked for any agenda items for the next meeting.

   Mr. Waller replied that no applications had been submitted for the September 21 meeting, with today being the deadline. He suggested the discussion items for the placards and murals would need to be changed to action items to consider and vote upon at the next meeting.

7. Adjournment.

   Commissioner Faulstich moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Royal seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Approved: 9-21-22
(date)

Yvette Aguado, Recording Secretary

Ronda Reagan, Chair