

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF POTTER §
AND RANDALL §
CITY OF AMARILLO §

On the 24th day of February 2022, the Board of Review for Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Downtown Design met in a Special Meeting session at 5:30 p.m. in Room 105 of City Hall, 601 S. Buchanan Street, Amarillo, Texas, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Devin Savage	Y	1	1
Mike Ritter	Y	1	1
Cindi Bulla	N	11	9
Gary Jennings	Y	11	10
Stephanie Daggett (Alternate)	N	1	0
Chairman Wesley Knapp	Y	11	8
Alan Cox	Y	11	11
Vice Chairman Gregg Bliss	Y	8	7

Staff in Attendance:

Cris Valverde, Director of Planning and Development Services
Kyle Schniederjan, Director of Capital Projects and Development Engineering
Ana Shepherd, Civil Engineer I
Brady Kendrick, Planner II and Recording Secretary
Jason Taylor, Planner I
Courtney White, Assistant City Attorney

Chairman Wesley Knapp called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

ITEM 1: Public Comment:

Citizens who desire to address the Board of Review for Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Downtown Design with regard to matters on the agenda or having to do with policies, programs, or services will be received at this time. The total time allotted for comments is three (3) minutes per speaker. The board may not discuss items not on this agenda, but may respond with factual, established policy information, or refer to staff. (*Texas Attorney General Opinion. JC-0169*) If you wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda, please hold your comments until that item is introduced.

No public comments were made.

ITEM 2: Approval of the December 30, 2021 Board of Review for Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Downtown Design meeting minutes.

A motion to approve the December 30, 2021 minutes of the Board of Review for Landmarks, Historic, Districts, and Downtown Design meeting was made by Board Member Alan Cox and was seconded by Board Member Gary Jennings. The motion passed unanimously.

The motioned passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: Nomination and election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Review for Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Downtown Design.

Board Member Gary Jennings nominated Chairman Wesley Knapp for Chairman and Board Member Gregg Bliss for Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Board Member Alan Cox. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: Presentation and Discussion on the Polk Street Streetscape Project.

Kyle Schniederjan, Director of Capital Projects and Development Engineering, presented the history of the Polk Street Streetscape Project and the scope and area to be focused on now for the project versus past iterations. Mr. Schniederjan explained the phases of the project and stated the City was in stage 1 of the project. This project is being brought before the Board to present the overall progress and seek feedback on possible variances needed. Stakeholder outreach is ongoing.

John Braudt and Chad Dietz, consultants with Parkhill presented the project block by block. They explained the need for variances in certain locations and possible alternatives and sought feedback from the board.

Board Member Gary Jennings asked about the Santa Fe Building and why there were not improvements proposed for the curb.

Mr. Braudt explained that this section of Polk Street is not in the scope of the project. Vice Chairman Gregg Bliss asked why no trees were proposed to be added in this area as well. Mr. Dietz explained that the limited funds forced them to trim certain areas from the project scope.

Mr. Schniederjan added that variances could set a precedent and the Board should be aware of this.

Board Member Mike Ritter asked if curb heights will be addressed.

Mr. Dietz stated that curbs will largely remain as is but there will be some work done. The large steps are locations where there is basement under the sidewalks but they will look at ways to address those areas.

Board Member Gary Jennings stated that the types of improvements that were done for the area around the Barfield Hotel might be appropriate for areas in this corridor.

Mr. Schniederjan asked the Board if they were in favor of mounting the lights on the sides of buildings in some locations. The Board responded yes.

Chairman Wesley Knapp stated that the Board is practical and uses common sense and is open minded to variances if they are appropriate and based on Staff's input. If the intent is still being met, variances could be appropriate.

Board Member Mike Ritter expressed concern about removing trees in certain locations.

Mr. Dietz suggested potted plants might be appropriate in certain area due to basement conflicts and asked if the Board was open to this.

Vice Chairman Gregg Bliss agreed those could be appropriate.

Vice Chairman Gregg Bliss stated the Board can be flexible and also stated a desire to keep the trees in front of the Maxor site.

Mr. Schniederjan added additional information on the landscaping.

Chairman Wesley Knapp asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak on the item.

No comments were made.

Vice Chairman Gregg Bliss asked if the City received any feedback on why previous attempts at grants were denied.

Mr. Schniederjan said they have and that it varied depending on the Presidential Administration in office.

No additional comments were made.

Chairman Wesley Knapp adjured the meeting at 5:55pm.

No items were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46PM.


Cris Valverde

Director of Planning and Development Services