



City of Davis

**Historical Resources Management Commission Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 17, 2020**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Senior Center, 646 A Street, Activity Room, Davis, CA 95616**  
(Southeast Corner of A Street & 7<sup>th</sup> Street)

Commissioners Present: David Hickman, Scott Miltenberger (Chairperson), Mark S. Davis, William Allen Lowry (Vice-chairperson), Michelle Van Meter, Erin Autry Montgomery, Ning Wan

Commissioner(s) Absent: Jordan Jacobs

Council Liaison(s) Present: Mayor Gloria Partida

Other Officers Present: Tom Callinan, Planning Technician

Also, in Attendance:

Staff Present: Ike Njoku, Planner & Historical Resources, Zoe Mirabile, City Clerk,

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**1. Call to Order & Roll Call.**

Chairperson Miltenberger called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda.**

Action: Vice-chairperson Lowry moved, seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comments**

None.

**4. Consent Calendar**

A. July 20, 2020, meeting minute approval. Commissioner Hickman moved and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Lowry to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Business Items**

**A. 621 Elm Wood Drive Proposed Renovation and Addition Project.**

Chairperson Miltenberger introduced the item, and provided detailed background. He reported on the efforts of the HRMC Subcommittee, including their email of July 30th to City staff, the Subcommittee's draft email regarding the administrative letter of intent to approve, and the barely two hours email response from the City Attorney regarding the June email inquiry. He provided direction to the Commission by stating that there are two things for the Commission to discuss, which are: 1) today's City Attorney letter that appear to avoid providing responses to the issues raised by the Commission regarding the procedure envisioned and embarked upon to process the proposed additions and renovation project at 621 Elmwood, and 2) the intent to approve letter, for which last day to provide comment is tomorrow, August 18, 2020.

The Commissioners deliberated and the comments of the Commission included:

- What is the HRMC position?
- Proceed with sending the protest email, while laying out HRMC concerns regarding the City Attorney's email and expressing continued objection to the steps outlined by staff and City Attorney.
- Ascertain how staff and the City Attorney came to their decision to bypass HRMC in the review process.
- Does this action harm the roles of the HRMC, and pose danger to the management of historical resources in Davis?
- What was the basis for the staff and City Attorney claiming as there are still other contributors that the Elmwood neighborhood would remain eligible as a historic district despite the loss of this contributing property, which runs counter to the expert survey in 2015?
- It appears that the staff and the City Attorney regard the eligible-but-undesigned district as a resource rather than the property itself, which is not accurate.
- HRMC email drew attention to implications of CEQA, which was not addressed in the City Attorney's response.
- There exists the possibility, however remote, that City has exposed itself to a CEQA lawsuit by not following its own established policies and practices regarding historical resources.
- There appears to be pre-supposition by the staff and City Attorney that the HRMC will not act in good faith should this project be brought before HRMC for advisory input, which contradicts the values and actions of the HRMC for many years; this is unacceptable implication.
- Would have been better if the City Attorney attended the HRMC Zoom meeting to explain and answer questions.
- Should HRMC formulate yet another response in the light of the City Attorney's late email?
- HRMC is still interested in holding a meeting with City Attorney and staff.
- Demolition ordinance should be included in the protest email.
- Actual CEQA language should be cited in the protest email.
- Should HRMC have its response published in the Davis Enterprise?
- Mayor Partida – this publication may not be supportable as Human Relations Commission (HRC) had similar thought of publication and was informed that the Commission needed prior City Council approval.
- Suggest adding the previous email as an attachment to the protest email since it has CEQA and Demolition ordinance references.

Chairperson Miltenberger called on each Commissioner to affirm a unanimous support to proceed with the protest email to the administrative intent to approve letter, and to attach previous email to it while making necessary adjustments to address areas discussed by the Commission relative to the recent City Attorney's email.

**B. Bike Lane Nomination and Recommendation to City Council to Designate the Bike Lanes as a Landmark.** Chairperson Miltenberger stated that he is working on the cover letter to be used to transmit the Bike Lanes nomination. Staff Liaison Njoku informed the Commission that it is anticipated that the ordinance to designate the Bike Lanes as local Landmarks would be presented to City Council in October 2020.

Vice-chairperson Lowry expressed concerns that most striping for the bike lanes are not there or readily visible, which is a safety concern. He noted that he informed Staff Liaison Njoku who passed on the information to pertinent staff who will look into this issue. Further, he

noted that this is the charge of another Commission, BTSSC; however, given the value placed on the Bike Lanes as historic resources, they should be readily identified.

Commissioners Van Meter and Hickman expressed surprise as both indicated that the striping was visible when they went out to take photos for the Bike Lane nomination. Staff Liaison Njoku reminded Commissioners that there are specific segments of the roadways that were identified as bike lanes and striped accordingly.

- C. College Park Historic District.** Vice-chairperson Lowry explained that he hand-delivered letters, and mailed out letters to those whose mailing addresses were different from the primary residence. He had not heard anything yet, although the letter indicated that Staff Liaison Njoku should be contacted. Njoku indicated that no one has officially contacted him regarding the letter, and suggested that it could be useful if another letter with specific request and a contact person identified – maybe a member of the Commission given the neighborhoods strong opposition to forming an association.

Commissioners deliberated and by consensus agreed that another letter is in order. Lowry indicated that he would volunteer to be the direct contact in the future letter. He asked Staff Liaison Njoku to verify with the City if it is permissible for him to be the lead for the neighborhood.

- D. 2015 Citywide Identified Eligible Historic Districts Update.** Chairperson Miltenberger introduced this item, and explained that the 2015 citywide survey identified Elmwood and University Estates Subdivisions as eligible historic districts. However, the Commission wanted to start with College Park historic district management plan first. In the meantime, a Subcommittee of Commissioners Davis and Lowry was started with the drafting the letter, similar to College Park, for the University Estates. He called upon the Subcommittee to provide update. Commissioners Davis and Lowry indicated that they have not done significant work in this area, and promise to come to the next meeting prepared to provide information on the progress made.

**6. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons.**  
None.

**7. Adjourn.**

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 21, 2020. The location is yet to be determined, but start times remains 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Hickman and seconded by Lowry. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.