



**City of Davis**  
**Historic Resources Management Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Senior Center, 646 A Street, Activity Room, Davis, CA 95616**  
**Monday, September 16, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

Commissioners: Erin Montgomery (Chair), Dan Castaneda (Vice-Chair), Lindsay Busse,

Absent: Marcus Marino, Ning Wan

Staff: Eric Lee (Senior Planner), Thomas McNairn (Associate Planner), Zoe Mirabile (City Clerk)

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1. Call to Order & Roll Call  
Chair Montgomery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and took roll call.
2. Approval of Agenda  
Moved by Commissioner Busse. Seconded by Commissioner Castaneda.  
Agenda approved (3-0).
3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Council Liaisons  
Staff announcements included the resignation of Commissioner Laleh who had recently moved out of town; update on the Davis Community Church administrative COA for the office building windows; reporting of the Hattie Weber museum concerns to Parks; and communication with College Park residents who were interested in initiating some improvements. Chair Montgomery mentioned she was keeping an eye out on grant opportunities to help the museum with their desire for a plaque on the WPA building.
4. Public Comment  
None
5. Consent Calendar
  - A. Historical Resources Management Commission Minutes, August 19, 2024  
Approved by consensus.
6. Regular Items
  - A. Museum Report.  
None.
  - B. 4823 Chiles Road (Cindy's Restaurant) Historical Resources Analysis.  
Planning Application #24-24. (*Thomas McNairn, Associate Planner*)

Planner McNairn presented the item describing the proposed project which would demolish the existing Cindy's restaurant building and construct a new quick-service restaurant. The current building was built in 1973 and is 51 years old and in accordance with the Municipal Code, historic review is required as part of the demolition review of the building. The Historical Resources Analysis (HRA) prepared for the property determined that it did not meet the eligibility criteria for designation. Staff recommended the HRMC accept the HRA and its conclusions.

For public comment.

- Dana Supernowicz, consultant who prepared the HRA, provided his analysis and findings related to the site and history noting that the building was not associated with the core area but the more recent highway area and development, the restaurant was a small chain that was not too successful and that other Cindy's buildings still existed, there had been minor alterations to the exterior and few interior changes, owners were not local, the building design was not a distinctive or particularly representative of Googie roadside architecture other than the top hat roof element, and that it was not an important example.
- Owner Jay Mundy expressed his appreciation for the commission's review and thoughtful discussion and described how they had looked into remodeling the existing building but that it was not feasible given the age and changes needed and believed that the new building would enhance and improve the area and that it would allow the site to continue serving the community.
- Robin Datel spoke and said she had a different take on the building's significance and read excerpts from the email comment she had provided the commission and believed that it could warrant being a local merit resource with its significant association with highway development, decentralization and suburban development, and Davis' transition to a larger town and auto-centric development, and that it could qualify under historic criterion 1 and 3.

Commission discussion included comments that the HRA analysis and conclusions were clear and thorough, that Cindy's buildings in other areas had also not warranted any distinction, that the public comments about the transformation of Davis into a larger town was appreciated, but that still finds that the building is not a good example of Googie architecture and support the findings of the HRA.

Commissioner Castaneda moved staff's recommendation and seconded by Commissioner Busse.

1. Find the Historical Resources Analysis and DPR 523 prepared for 4823 Chiles Road for adequate and acceptable for inclusion in the City's Cultural Resources Inventory; and
2. Find that the building does not meet the eligibility criteria to be considered for historical designation, pursuant to the Historical Resources Analysis.

AYES: Busse, Castaneda, Montgomery

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion approved 3-0.

- C. Consider Council Subcommittee Proposed Process to Place Tasks/Items on Commission Agendas and provide feedback.

City Clerk Mirabile presented and provided background on the item and the proposal noting that the city was seeking input from the commissions this month for the subcommittee and that the proposal could be changed or result in no action, but that the commissions would be updated.

Commission questions address the timeline for the potential change, whether it would apply to existing commission initiatives and projects, if it would take the place of council check-ins, whether other cities have operate similarly, how much self-determination is allowed in determining an agenda item, observation that not all commissions are the same and that the term "concept" may not be applicable to the HRMC, and that the HRMC typically needs to undertake some initial research and effort before determining if an idea or initiative should be seriously pursued.

Public Comment included Elaine Roberts Musser who expressed concerns about the proposed change with micromanaging of the commissions, loss of their ability and autonomy and expertise, that it was not good governance and should be scrapped, and noted comments from other commissions concerned about it.

Additional Commission comments included the desire for confirmation of how Council thinks the HRMC fits into the proposed process and differences compared to other commissions; what sort of issues with setting agendas there may be; and that not all commissions are as specific responsibilities as well defined at the HRMC with the city being a certified local government and maybe a one size fits all approach might not work that well.

7. Subcommittee and Liaison Assignment Updates.

A. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- WPA Markings

No update. Commissioner Castaneda said he hoped to have something to report at the next meeting. Chair Montgomery noted that with the resignation of Commissioner Laleh, the commission would be looking for another subcommittee member. Commissioner Castaneda mentioned that Commissioner Marino had previously expressed some interest.

8. Long Range Calendar.

October 21, 2024 is the next regularly scheduled meeting. No items are currently scheduled

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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