

Minutes of the Fort Lowell Restoration Advisory Committee Meeting
5230 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712
February 4, 2009 5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:08 p.m. Those in attendance were:

Larry Hecker, Committee Chair
Elaine Hill, Committee Member
Frank McClure, Committee Member
Peggy Sackheim, Committee Member
Patsy Waterfall, Committee Member
David Yubeta, Committee Member
Lynne Birkinbine, City of Tucson
Lisa Cuestas, City of Tucson
Jim Conroy, City of Tucson
Jonathan Mabry, City of Tucson
Linda Mayro, Pima County
Simon Herbert, Pima County
Loy Neff, Pima County
Drew Gorski, Poster Frost Assoc.
Corky Poster, Poster Frost Assoc.
Rebecca Field, Sage Landscaping (sub-consultant to PFA)
Bruce Hilpert (sub-consultant to PFA)
Robert Cooke, Neighborhood Resident
James Klein, Concerned Citizen
Fred Ronstadt, Concerned Citizen
Dan Bates, Concerned Citizen

2. **Review of the January 14, 2009 minutes (ACTION)**

Frank McClure moved that the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting be accepted; seconded by David Yubeta and passed unanimously.

4. **New Business (taken out of order)**

a. **Discussion: January 29 meeting with the Pima County Library Director**

Larry Hecker summarized the meeting that he, Simon Herbert, and Drew Gorski had with Nancy Ledebor, Pima County Library Director, about the possibility of relocating the River Branch (Dusenberry) library from its location at the corner of River and Craycroft to a stand-alone structure in the park. The Library Director stated that five acres would be required for the library, which should be a 20,000 square foot facility. Hecker recognized that these requirements make the new library unlikely at Historic Fort Lowell Park, but added that there is possible bond funding available for Fort Lowell should an election be held in November of this year. Currently, the bond package includes initial funding for Fort Lowell Park. Loy Neff added that implementation of the master plan is part of the future bond project.

3. Work Plan: Project Status Reports

a. Poster Frost Associates (PFA), Master Plan Status Updates

i. Master Plan

Corky Poster and his colleagues distributed materials to update the committee members on the master planning process. Poster reminded the members that the goal is to present, for the first time, a recommended preferred plan at the public meeting February 18th. Drew Gorski asked, “What form will the museum take and where will the museum be located?” Another issue is focusing attention on making the west side of Craycroft a historical interpretive area.

Chair Hecker inquired as to the maximum flexibility for bringing the east and west sides of Craycroft together in the most efficient way, depending on the ease and accessibility of crossing Craycroft. For instance, could there be a landscaped median? Other comments included:

- Spatial realization
- The importance of the parade ground
- Reinstalling the ramadas that are being eliminated elsewhere in the park
- Possible use of the infantry quarters as a new museum or rental facility
- Rebuilding what’s already there
- Building a new museum or moving the current museum.

ii. Other PFA updates – Corky Poster announced that additional input is needed from TPAC regarding issues for relocating the Chief Trumpeter statue on Craycroft. Its Public Art Committee would be asked to give input as part of the official aspect of public art.

4. New Business (continued)

b. Presentation: Apache Bronze Statue (taken out of order)

Fred Ronstadt, a former member of Tucson’s city council, introduced Dan Bates, the artist who sculpted the Chief Trumpeter statue and proposes to do the Apache bronze statue. Bates explained that eighteen years ago the installation of a Chiricahua Apache Indian statue was proposed to complement the Trumpeter and “complete the monument,” to portray the relationship between the United States cavalry and the Apache Indian. In Bates’s presentation he first expressed his concerns about moving the Trumpeter (bugler), explaining how its current site represents his vision of the proper historical location where a U.S. Cavalry trumpeter in 1880s Fort Lowell would have been seen. Secondly, he asked how can the story be told of this entire region without including the Chiricahua Apache, the reason the fort was here? In addition, in Mr. Bate’s vision, the proper placement of the Chiricahua Apache statue is relevant and would help to bring the east and west sides of Fort Lowell Park together.

3. Work Plan: Project Status Reports

b. COT, Project Status Updates

i. Other COT Updates

- **Donaldson House** -- Jim Conroy reported that Environmental Strategies has been working for two weeks and cleanup is going well. Ongoing work includes replacing some adobe bricks and the roof. A structural engineer will be on site

next week to evaluate the job. Conroy hopes a tour can be scheduled in early April.

- **Adkins parcels – COT Rezoning status: Fort Lowell Historic Preservation Zone overlay** -- Jonathan Mabry announced that the rezoning issue passed and is now part of the historic preservation zone.

c. County, Project Status Updates

i. Other County updates

- **Adobe Repair Workshop at Fort Lowell Day Celebration, February 14, 2009**
Simon Herbert reported that the National Park Service is in place for the Saturday event as well as the week-long workshop, February 16-20. Both city and county staff will be on hand to assist David Yubeta and his crew. Kathy Dixon from Parks agreed to check into the required funding to make a documentary of the adobe repair workshop. Channel 12 is a possibility for filming the adobe repair work.

4. New Business

c. Master Plan -- Public Meeting No. 3

- i. **Schedule & venue – February 18, 2009, 6-8 pm, Udall Park, Carol W. West Senior Addition** – mailing is going out this week to the neighborhoods.
- ii. **Meeting overview** – no additional information.

d. Other new business

In response to comments from the Advisory Committee, Jim Conroy reiterated that he first became aware of the Apache bronze statue in July, 2008, when he was approached by Fred Ronstadt. Ronstadt was told that an advisory board was already in place and if the bronze statue was pursued, an Apache consultant should be approached. That is when the name of John Welch came up and eventually brought on board as a consultant. It was made clear that anything going into the park as part of the Master Plan needs to be made part of the public process and done in a public forum. There was never a discussion that the City was supporting a project that the advisory committee did not know about.

5. Call to the public

Dr. James Klein, member of an historic district advisory committee, expressed concern for the old tuberculosis sanitarium on the Adkins's property (the sanitarium included the adobe Officers' Quarters). Dr. Klein does not want to see the structure demolished as it is one of the two oldest still standing structures used as private tuberculosis facilities in Tucson in the mid 1920s.

6. Items for next meeting — continued discussion on the Apache bronze statue; debriefing the Advisory Committee on Public Meeting No. 3.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.