

**Minutes of the Fort Lowell Restoration Advisory Committee
Meeting
5230 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712
December 10, 2008 5:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared. Those in attendance were:

Larry Hecker, Committee Chair
Elaine Hill, Committee Member (arrived at 5:12 p.m.)
Frank McClure, Committee Member
Peggy Sackheim, Committee Member
Patsy Waterfall, Committee Member (arrived at 5:08 p.m.)
David Yubeta, Committee Member
Lynne Birkinbine, City of Tucson
Lisa Cuestas, City of Tucson
Jim Conroy, City of Tucson
Jonathan Mabry, City of Tucson
Norma Stevens, City of Tucson
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)
Ily Urban, Neighborhood Resident
Janet Marcus, Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association
Anita Fonte, Community Renaissance

2. **Review of the November 12, 2008 minutes (ACTION)**

David Yubeta moved that the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting be accepted; seconded by Peggy Sackheim and passed unanimously.

3. **Work Plan: Project Status Reports**

a. **COT, Project Status Updates**

i. **Assessment of Access Plan for Adobe Repair Workshop at Fort Lowell Day Celebration, February 14, 2009**

Lynne Birkinbine, City of Tucson Environmental Services, reported that an industrial hygienist assessed the property and took readings of the soil for determining the safety of holding an adobe-making workshop. The proposed access plan has been mapped out and that information given to the hygienist. Final results of the analysis have not been received.

ii. **Adkins parcels – COT Rezoning status: Fort Lowell Historic Preservation Zone overlay**

Jonathan Mabry, City of Tucson, reported that this item will go before the zoning examiner Thursday, December 11, 2008. Six responses were received in favor of the

rezoning and no negative. Residents are encouraged to attend and speak in favor of the process.

iii. Donaldson House update

Jim Conroy, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation, has requested that the \$51,000.00 estimate from Environmental Strategies for stabilization work be decreased. The new proposal is \$45,000, and Conroy is pursuing sources for the funding.

iv. Other COT updates – there were none.

b. County, Project Status Updates

i. Planning Status of Adobe Repair Workshop at Fort Lowell Day Celebration

Simon Herbert announced that the plan is proceeding as if the workshop and El Fuerte Days is going ahead, contingent upon COT and SHPO approval. A meeting took place on site with the National Park Service to discuss logistics and exact repair approaches to the buildings. Word has not yet been received from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), but Herbert hopes to move forward with a contractor to do some of the preparation for the work that still needs to be done.

Herbert asked that the City send a formal letter to the National Park Service, inviting them to come on site to do the workshop. David Yubeta stressed the importance of involving and training City staff to take care of the minor adobe repairs and future maintenance. Jim Conroy wants at least a couple of parks maintenance staff who previously observed the work done at the hospital and expressed an interest to be on site for the workshop. Herbert stated that there is room for six people to learn the adobe process.

iii. Planning Status of Fort Lowell Sessions at Arizona Historic Preservation Conference

Herbert continued with an update on the Arizona Preservation Conference to be held in June, 2009. Two sessions were approved by the APC, one of which will be talking about the master plan. Herbert will be working with Poster Frost and possibly the other consultants to pull together the team that will do the presentation.

iv. Other County updates

The county Cultural Resources Office will give a presentation on January 11, 2009, to the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association. The neighborhood is requesting an update on the status of the Fort Lowell project, and Herbert and Poster Frost and Associates will give the presentation and update on the master planning process.

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

i. Summary and discussion of Public Meeting No. 2

Corky Poster reported on the second public meeting held November 19th with 75-90 in attendance. It was an ambitious presentation and Poster Frost is in the process of digesting the comments made by the attendees. Drew Gorski provided a notebook of the various public meeting comments and announced that a PDF version will also be sent out. PFA had compiled a summary of comments received and the committee's perception and feedback of the public meeting.

A handout was distributed summarizing the **Public Feedback and Developing the Preferred Plan**. Planning variables included:

- a balance of history and recreation
- representation of all the layers
- support for all preservation treatments, including reconstruction
- support for the pedestrian overpass or at-grade crossing
- natural, cultural and recreational landscape
- efficient management and what works best
- budget considerations from 5-25 million.

Little feedback was received about the appropriate uses or adaptive reuse of the commissary, etc. and there was no presence at the public meeting from the recreational community such as soccer and little league.

The handout also named topics for further discussion:

- appropriate uses
- recreation: maintain, expand, reduce, reorganize?
- preservation treatments
- circulation
- phasing.

Drew Gorski distributed a handout titled, **Proposed Focus Groups with Students and Youth Organizations**, spearheaded by Bruce Hilpert. Gorski and Hilpert are working together to develop a more assertive approach for acquiring feedback from the younger set. Meetings with the groups listed (elementary school, soccer team, and Boy Scouts) have all been scheduled and confirmed except for St. Gregory's.

ii. Master Plan update

Corky Poster will provide a preliminary direction of the preferred master plan to the next meeting of the committee (January 14, 2009). The next public meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 18, 2009, and PFA will provide the outline of what the preferred plan might look like. There won't be a lot of detail but should have a sense of the recommendation for the proposed structure.

iii. Other PFA updates

Elaine Hill, committee member, suggested a field trip to other local historical sites in order to see what's been done and how those sites are being interpreted. Suggested sites included Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, the Presidio downtown, and the Julian Wash cultural park. January 10th was chosen as the tentative date, and Loy Neff offered to coordinate.

4. **New Business**

a. Master Plan -- Public Meeting No. 3

- i. **Schedule & venue – February 18, 2009, 6-8 pm, Udall Park, Carol W. West Senior Addition** – to be scheduled.
- ii. **Meeting overview** -- covered under 3.c.ii.

b. Other new business

Elaine Hill, committee member, asked if there had been an assessment of the repairs done on the commissary. Earlier repairs have to be redone and should be part of the master plan. Numerous proposals regarding the commissary have been received and Poster assured the committee members that under “treatment recommendations” these insufficient repairs will be addressed. A recommendation will be included in the February 18th public meeting.

5. **Call to the public** — no one spoke.
6. **Items for next meeting** — Next meeting is scheduled for January 14. The insufficient repairs done on the commissary repairs will be discussed.
7. **Adjournment**
Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.