

Minutes of the Fort Lowell Restoration Advisory Committee Meeting

5230 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712

July 13, 2011, 5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:06 p.m. A quorum of the Committee was present. Those in attendance (and signed in) were:

Larry Hecker (Committee Chair)

Peggy Sackheim (Committee Member)

Frank McClure (Committee Member)

Patsy Waterfall (Committee Member)

Lynne Birkinbine (City of Tucson)

Lisa Cuestas (City of Tucson)

Jim Conroy (City of Tucson)

Midge Irwin (City of Tucson)

Jonathan Mabry (City of Tucson)

Simon Herbert (Pima County)

Loy Neff (Pima County)

Gary Campbell (Pima County)

Jon Mirto (Poster Frost Mirto)

Pat Hartshorne (SCS Engineers)

Bill Anderson (OFLNA)

2. (Action) Review of Meeting Minutes: April 13 meeting

Patsy Waterfall moved to approve the minutes of the April 13 meeting. Peggy Sackheim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Work Plan: Project Status Reports.

a. COT, Project Status Updates

i. EPA Grant Environmental Clean Up Project.

Lynne Birkinbine, Lisa Cuestas, and Jonathan Mabry reported on the status of the EPA Grant Environmental Clean Up Project. The consultation is ongoing, with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) drafted and ready to send out for signatures. Nearly all Tribal responses are in and the Tohono O'odham Nation will take the lead for interested Tribes as a Consulting Party. Fieldwork is expected to start in September because of the Monsoon season, which has the potential to negatively impact archaeological recovery work.

ii. Relocation of Adkins Parcels west boundary fence.

Jim Conroy presented a summary of the recent project conducted by COT (funded by COT Risk Management), to relocate the property western boundary fence. Recent land survey conducted by COT confirmed that the old fence encroached approximately eight feet onto the adjacent neighbor's property. The COT work was done in cooperation with the neighbor and with an archaeological monitor present, with new wire fence replacing the old fence and the fence line moved to the true location, per the survey results.

Peggy Sackheim raised the question of painting the new fence to reduce its visibility. During the discussion, Jim Conroy identified the cost of painting to be high, approximately \$1500, and reminded the group that the fence is intended as a temporary measure until later development of the Master Plan, which will include installing a more suitable fence or wall. He offered to pursue the matter further, but Frank McClure commented that it was a temporary fence and Peggy agreed that the current fence would be satisfactory, as a temporary measure.

Chair Larry Hecker asked about recently observed activity within the Adkins property, to which Jon Mirto responded that geotechnical investigations of the soils and underlying geology are ongoing to identify issues concerning engineering requirements. Gary Campbell confirmed that Pima County is contracting a consultant to do this work to assist with the engineering needed for the project.

iii. No other COT updates.

b. County, Project Status Update

i. Adkins Parcel – Preservation Plan Implementation Status

Simon Herbert briefly reviewed the project status. Design is in progress by Poster Frost Mirto and Facilities Management is conducting geotechnical investigations. The project is scheduled to be ready to go to construction after the environmental clean up is completed. He remarked that the designs will be sent to SHPO for approval when they are 30% complete. Simon deferred to Poster Frost Mirto for detailed updates on the design.

ii. Facilities Management Department: Status of the Preservation Plan Implementation

Gary Campbell, Facilities Management (FM) Project Manager, briefly explained his role in design and construction oversight. Gary will be attending and contributing to design meetings and in the Construction Phase, he will oversee and monitor the construction contracts and work.

iii. No other County updates.

c. Poster Frost Mirto, Project Status Updates

i. Adkins Parcel – Preservation Plan Implementation Status

Jon Mirto provided a reference copy and illustrations of the design, which is currently progressing to 30% completion. He also provided a tentative cost break down and schedule for the proposed implementation tasks. The project budget was identified in a previous meeting at approximately \$1.1 million, and the cost and schedule break down the project in a prioritized list of bid packages containing combinations of tasks that can be done with the available funds.

Jon reviewed the priority task bid packages using the project site plan to illustrate what and where the work tasks will be. He proposed several priority bid packages, with alternate bid packages for lower priority tasks. The priority bid packages are comprised of higher priority project tasks, with possible alternate bids to complete lower prioritized tasks, as funding permits. He explained that the total construction tasks exceed available funds, so priorities must be determined by the project team, with advice from the Advisory Committee. The priorities have not been set, but these tasks include interior and exterior rehabilitation of Officers Quarters No. 3, stabilization of adobe remains and constructing protective structures over Officers Quarters No. 2 and No. 1. Another priority task is providing for public access from Fort Lowell Road by constructing a parking lot and pathway to the Officers Quarters. Another task is vegetation work to plant native cottonwood trees in Cottonwood Lane along the south side of the historic fort Parade Ground. Other site preparation tasks to assist with engineering and utilities installation are needed, as are new ornamental and protective fencing and lighting to secure the Officers Quarters from vandalism and stabilization of the Adkins family house and windmill.

Questions, answers, and general discussion surrounded Jon's presentation, ranging from general questions about the various bid packages and tasks to discussions concerning design details of the proposed protective structures. The design review process was also discussed. Comments about the relative importance of the interior and exterior rehabilitation of Officers Quarters No. 3 clarified the issue of public access – public tours can still be provided of the interior even if rehabilitation is not completed. Limited work could be done to make the interior safe for public access. The parking lot and pathway providing public access were identified as important priorities for the ultimate use of the resources and amenities as part of Historic Fort Lowell Park.

4. New Business

- a. Larry Hecker announced that while he would still be a property owner, he would be moving from the Fort Lowell neighborhood in coming months. He suggested that the committee consider whether he should resign as Chair (but remain on the committee) and asked that this issue be placed on the next meeting agenda.

5. Call to the public – No response from the public in attendance.

6. (Action) Items and schedule for the next meeting.

- a. After discussion among staff and Advisory Committee, Patsy Waterfall moved that the next quarterly meeting be scheduled for October 12, 2011. Peggy Sackheim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.