

**Historic Preservation Advisory Board Meeting
April 15, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Ron Harper at 6:03 p.m. with the following members present: Sandi Whitley, Sherry Pittman, and Don Williams. Joseph Barnes, Darlene Singleton and Jeff West were absent.

Additionally, the following staff members were present: Robert LaCroix and Chris Spencer.

ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of Minutes for the November 19, 2009 meeting

Board member Pittman made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2009, meeting.

Board member Whitley seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Voting for Chair and Vice Chair was postponed until the next meeting where a full board could be present.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Review and Discuss Procedures and Requirements for Becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG) through the Texas Historical Commission.

Spencer gave an overview of the direction provided by the City Council and the process required to become a Certified Local Government (CLG).

Spencer stated on March 1, 2010, the City Council directed staff to begin investigating and working on the process of becoming a Certified Local Government. Spencer continued and outlined The Texas Historical Commission requirements to for a local government to qualify as a CLG:

1. Enforce state or local legislation that protects historic properties
2. Establish a qualified review commission composed of professional and lay members
3. Maintain a system for surveying and inventorying historic properties
4. Provide for public participation in the historic preservation process, including recommending properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Spencer went on to review the steps required by the Texas Historical Commission for a local government to receive designation:

1. Submit a Request for Certified Local Government Status form signed by the chief elected official of the interested local government and submitted to the THC's executive director.
2. Enclose a copy of the local preservation ordinance.
3. Enclose a list of locally designated properties, Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, State Archeological Landmarks and National Register properties. Include maps and statements of significance.
4. Enclose a resume or brief biography for each member of the review commission, board or committee.
5. Enclose a copy of an adopted preservation plan or a list of goals and objectives for the local preservation program.
6. Once a year, each CLG must provide an annual report to the THC.

Spencer explained how the proposed CLG program would work with and how it was different from the existing Main Street program.

Board member Pittman explained the research that she had conducted showed that there were 1,600 CLG governments and about \$3-million in funds available to those governments.

The board discussed the length of the required biography for each board member and due date.

Spencer outlined the potential benefits to city staff of becoming a CLG.

Board member Whitely discussed the process of grant applications once CLG designation had been achieved.

Spencer explained the role that city staff and the role that the board would play in the processing and approving of potential grant applications.

Councilman Mark Russo addressed the board and explained some additional benefits that he has discovered through his research of being a CLG. He explained that the assistance that the city could receive from being a CLG was not limited to just buildings but also included historic sites such as "Old Rockwall Park" and cemeteries.

Board member Pittman stated that she had worked with neighborhood grant applications for neighborhoods located within cities that were CLG and the resulting items that grants could be used for.

Board member Pittman explained that she believed that any grant application would have to be approved by the City Council.

- Discuss Landmarking of Potential Historic Properties in Downtown.

Spencer explained that this item was placed on the agenda at the request of board members to determine how city staff and the board should logistically approach the landmarking of properties in Downtown. Spencer continued and asked the board how they wanted to approach the designation of properties in the future.

Board member Pittman explained that she had meet with the City of Rockwall Main Street Manager, Bethany Golden, on the 4th of July celebration and asked her input on how to approach the landmarking of properties Downtown and the role that Main Street could play. Board member Pittman continued and suggested that any landmark property be subject to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation.

The board discussed educating property owners on the benefits of being a landmark property.

Board Member Whitely suggested that the Main Street Advisory Board could be an advocate and help to promote the landmarking of buildings Downtown.

Chairman Harper suggested that the process not be to overwhelming as to discourage property owners.

Mr. LaCroix explained that the nine block area know as the "Historic Square" was currently not in a historic district and the existing historic district, "Old Town Rockwall" historic district, is primarily residential.

Board member Pittman stated that the exiting tax abetment for historic properties did not apply to landmark and non-residential properties. Pittman suggested that the 7-year tax abatement be extended to landmark and non-residential properties as an incentive to get property owners interested in having their properties landmarked.

Board member Pittman suggested that the board look at other area cities with successful preservation and Main Street programs to see what kind of brochures, booklets and pamphlets they have available to educate property owners.

Mr. LaCroix described the benefits of having a packet and presentation prepared prior to discussing the potential of landmarking buildings with property owners.

The board discussed whether to first approach property owners who own multiple buildings or property owners who own individual buildings.

Board member Pittman enquired about tracking the increase in property values downtown.

Mr. LaCroix suggested that the board utilize the downtown survey and develop a priority list of buildings to research.

Board member Williams suggested that staff indentify the buildings on the downtown survey that are owned by the two largest property owners in downtown.

2 Board member Pittman asked about the possibility of landmarking the Rockwall County
Courthouse.

4 Chairman Harper asked about the status of the Historic Tree walk.

6 Mr. Spencer updated the board on the status of the Tree Registry and informed the
8 board of the progress that staff had made.

10 **ADJOURNMENT**

12 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

14 **PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY**
BOARD OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, Texas, this 17 day of JUNE,
16 **2010.**

18 
Ron Harper, Chairman

20
22 **ATTEST:**


