

November Historic Preservation Commission Monthly Update

Planning and Development Services Dept.

HPC Goals: The HPC adopted FY2026 goals at their meeting on October 21.

Local Legends: The 2025 Local Legends were presented to City Council at their November 6 meeting. Rev. Dr. A.W. Anthony Mays and the Round Rock Independent School District were recognized for their contributions to the city's culture and history. Chair Parson, Vice-Chair Whitaker, and Commissioner Conrad made the presentation.



Left: Commissioners Conrad and Ellam, Mayor Craig Morgan, Commissioner Simmons, Local Legend Rev. Dr. A.W. Anthony Mays, HPC Chair Parson

Right: Commissioners Conrad and Ellam, Mayor Craig Morgan, RRISD Senior Chief of Schools and Innovation Dr. Natalie Nichols, Commissioner Simmons, HPC Chair Parson.

HPC Training:

- All Commissioners were registered for the November 13 NACP webinar: Design Review Roundtable: Additions. Members from several cities compared recent addition projects and whether their commissions would have been likely to approve them. Recordings are available for 90 days.
- If you were registered for the Summer Short Course in August, recordings are available until November 23. The link to view the recordings was sent individually from the NACP.
- As part of our Texas Historical Commission requirements as a Certified Local Government (CLG), staff and Commissioners are required to complete training every year. The state requires staff to submit records of all training completed. Please inform Kerstin immediately following training completion so we can track your training for reporting purposes. Include the name of the training, host/organization, and time and/or send the certificate of completion if available.

Lunch and Learn:

- Tim Todd's Lunch and Learn presentation on 10/28/25 *The Army Colony, Interstate 35, and 1956 Round Rock, Texas* had an attendance of 35.



- The next Lunch and Learn *Trails, Tails, and Tradition: European Migration and Stagecoach Inn History* presented by former HPC commissioner and Texas Brazos Trail Region Exec. Director Pamela Anderson will be held on February 10 from 12:00-1:00pm at the Baca Center.

Downtown Mixed-Use Zoning:

- The ordinance amendments were adopted by City Council at their meeting on **October 23** which included public hearings. The adopted amendments are posted on the project website: roundrocktexas.gov/downtownzoning.
- The City is reevaluating its Downtown Mixed-Use zoning districts which include many historic properties. As part of this project, PDS reached out the 125 property owners whose properties are older than 50 years but are not currently designated. The outreach had a 12% response rate. Staff met with the owners of 10 properties, of which 5 or 6 are intending to pursue designation.

Updates on administrative CofAs for properties with H Overlay:

- **Palm House:** Rehabilitation bids were opened 10/30/25 with a wide range of prices. General Services will investigate the bidders' credentials and negotiate a contractor. Preservation staff checked the plans that were posted for bid and there are no substantial changes from what the HPC approved in its CofA.
- **103 E. Main:** At the October meeting the HPC denied a CofA for painting a brick addition blue, and required that it be repainted a more common brick color. It also gave the applicant the option of applying for a different cladding material at the November HPC meeting, which he plans to do.

Parks and Recreation Dept. (PARD)

PARD is revisiting restoration plans for the Sansom House/Cantina next to the Stagecoach Inn to assess whether they are still applicable should funding become available in the future. A set of plans for restoration was last reviewed by the HPC in 2013.

Interpretive signage for Heritage Trail West will be completed in the near future. Staff are working with PARD to review the interpretive signage for the trail.

On February 8, 2024, City Council approved an agreement to continue the development of the Downtown Park (formerly Lawn at Brushy Creek). The Downtown Park agreement also encompasses the design and administration of the Town Green Project which includes enhancements to the area around the water tower and the Johnson Building (gas station). These improvements are included under the same contract as the Downtown Park but will be completed at a later time. Construction of the Town Green Project, including the Johnson Building, has begun and is expected to be completed within 9 to 12 months.

General Services Dept.

The Palm House was relocated from 212 E Main Street to the Old Settlers Association grounds on January 30, 2024. Heimsath Architects developed a preservation program and restoration plan for the house which was reviewed by the THC. The HPC reviewed and approved the restoration plans with conditions at the April 15, 2025, meeting. The restorations plans have been finalized. Rehabilitation bids were opened October 30 with a wide range of prices. General Services will investigate the bidders' credentials and negotiate a contractor. Preservation staff checked the plans that were posted for bid and there are no substantial changes from what the HPC approved in its CofA.

Round Rock Preservation (RRP)

RRP is publishing a monthly column about Round Rock history in the online publication, *Round the Rock*. Their column can be found at the link below:

<https://roundtherocktx.com/round-rock-history-by-round-rock-preservation>