

July Historic Preservation Commission Monthly Update

Planning and Development Services Dept.

Annual Work Session: The annual HPC Work Session will be held on the regularly scheduled meeting date, Tuesday, September 15. The Work Session will be held from 4:00 – 8:00pm. Dinner will be provided. If there is anything you would like to add to the agenda for discussion only (no action), please email Kerstin by August 1.

HPC Training:

- Commissioner Ellam and Kerstin will attend the NAPC's FORUM 2026 conference from July 22-26 in Minneapolis.
- Commissioners and staff are required to attend at least one training session per year as part of our Certified Local Government certification requirements. Please inform Kerstin as soon as you complete a training session 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.

Local Legends:

- At the annual work session for FY2026, the HPC adopted a priority goal to become more involved in the promotion of the Local Legends program including the solicitation of a new nomination by each Commissioner. However, no new nominations for the 2026 Local Legends were received by June 30.
- One 2025 nomination was overlooked due to a technical glitch and will be treated as a new nomination. This nomination and 7 carryover nominations from 2021-2025 will be considered at the September work session.

Historic Design Guidelines:

- As discussed at the 2025 HPC work session, staff are currently developing an updated set of Historic Design Guidelines. Staff will present an update on the status of the Guidelines at the July HPC meeting prior to the release of the draft which will be discussed during the September work session. The HPC will consider a recommendation for approval for the Guidelines at a following meeting before they are presented to City Council, with the goal of adopting the Guidelines by the end of the year.

Updates on CofAs for properties with H Overlay:

- **14 Chisholm Trail** (Sellstrom House) has been sold to a dental practice whose owner is interested in pursuing National Register and/or RTHL designation. He has a predevelopment meeting scheduled for July 23 to discuss renovations, which at this time appear to be mostly interior.
- **4 Chisholm Trail** has completed their new classroom building and was issued a temporary certificate of occupancy with conditions to add equipment screening.



Federal Reviews:

- Staff sent comments on a 43-ft cell tower proposed for 1075 N. Mays. Staff concluded that it would impact the view of the historically significant but not designated chapel at the Texas Baptist Children's Home and requested that it be move further north.
- Staff complete Section 106 reviews. The Section 106 review process was established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and requires the evaluation of how federal projects may affect historic properties before project decisions are finalized.

Downtown

- Construction has begun on a dumpster enclosure located in the Lampasas ROW in the Historic District. An administrative CofA was issued for this project on October 7, 2025, and included conditions for the addition of a limestone veneer and stamped concrete approach.
- A new brunch restaurant and bar called Bed Rock will open at 114 E. Main St.
- Louisiana Longhorn Café located at 200 E Main Street is closed.

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.
- Staff are finalizing interpretive signage for Heritage Trail West. Staff are working with PARD to complete final reviews of interpretive signage for the trail.
- The Town Green Project which includes enhancements to the area around the water tower and the Johnson Building (gas station) is under construction. Utility conflicts have been resolved and construction has resumed. The building permit for the Johnson Building has been issued and construction has begun.
- Staff have received 90% construction documents for the Downtown Park and will be reviewed by staff. Staff anticipate going out to bid in August. Bids have been received for Heritage Trail East, which will be constructed on the north side of Brushy Creek, with construction expected to begin in the fall following approvals from TxDOT and City Council.

General Services Dept.

The restoration of the Palm House has commenced, and construction is expected to be completed by mid-July. Termite repairs continue. Preservation staff will review plans as submitted and issue CofA amendments for any products not specified in the approved CofA issued by the HPC on April 15, 2025.

- Cedar shake roof is in progress.
- Porch columns and beam are in progress.
- Hardware for all doors will be levers for ADA compliance, not just the front.

- Paint colors selected: buff siding, tan trim, sage green shutters, dark red window sashes and front door. Front porch floor and back deck will be stained tan.
- Stone skirting installed around porch. Skirting under the house will be lattice.



Photo of Palm House from 7/1/26

Round Rock Preservation (RRP)

- RRP is considering how to protect the Ganzert Family Cemetery located off of S A.W. Grimes Blvd.
- 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>.