

Landmark Preservation Ordinance Update Task Force
Meeting #1 – March 9, 2018
Draft Summary

Task Force members present:

Councilman Kevin Flynn, Councilwoman Robin Kniech, Charles Jordy, Amy Cole, Jeff Pearson, Will Baker, Marilyn Quinn, Adam Harding, Mark Bowman, Hayden Hirschfeld, Annie Levinsky, Scott Chomiak, Tania Salgado. (Dennis Humphries, called-in)

Absent:

Chris Cowan, Stephanie Fernandez, Terry Liggins, Nola Miguel

Staff: Caryn Champine (Planning Services); Jenn Cappeto, Kara Hahn, Krystal Marquez, Becca Dierschow, Jenny Buddenberg (Landmark Preservation); Adam Hernandez (City Attorney's Office)

Facilitator: Mike Hughes

Meeting Objectives:

- Give the members the opportunity to meet one another and begin building working relationships
 - Clarify the charge to the task force and the context for their deliberation
 - Establish process, schedule and deadline
 - Give the members the opportunity to identify the criteria for success, including their community/constituency's needs/aspirations/concerns
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I. Purpose and Rationale for the Task Force

Key Topics– Staff

- Designations that come through demolition and owner-opposed designation
- Environmental Impacts of Deconstruction
- Whether/How supporters and opponents to designation get counted
- Collaboration and mediation opportunities
- Timeframe for application for demolition
- Tools to preserve neighborhood character in addition to designation
- Encouraging property owners to designate

Staff reviewed the following:

- Landmark Preservation Ordinance
- Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000
- Blueprint Denver 2002 – Supplement to Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000
- More recent planning efforts: Denveright / Blueprint update, Neighborhood Planning Initiative, Discover Denver survey, other partnerships

The full staff presentation slide deck not replicated here. See <http://denvergov.org>

II. Criteria for Success – How Might We Evaluate Possible Changes to the Landmark Ordinance (Chapter 30)?

Recommended changes to the Landmark Ordinance will:

- Retain the fundamental purpose of the ordinance
- Advance the core values that led the city to create the Landmark Ordinance
- Make the preservation processes clear and predictable
- Reduce conflicts over designations and demolitions
- Serve to protect the character of the city and the attributes of Denver that we care about

- Give us the opportunity to identify – in advance of preservation efforts – charter-defining attributes
- Include a variety of tools
- Serve homeowners; improve the likelihood that they can stay in their home as the family changes
- Use best practices
- Define clearly the roles for staff, applicants, building owners, realtors, neighborhood representatives, council, commissions, design review boards
- Bring quality information to decision-making processes
- Reduce surprises
- Lead to solutions that are subtle and nuanced
- Advance practical solutions
- Balance burdens and benefits fairly
- Changes should be effective, practical, supported by the public, and feasible for staff to implement

III. Topics – Only a Starter List

The first conversation about criteria for success naturally led members of the group to begin listing topics that the task force may need to discuss. The list included:

- Values
- Retaining walls
- Solar panel placement
- Green roof ordinance
- Modern infill in historic districts
- Demolition permits
- Differences between Individual building designation and historic district designation and when each is appropriate
- Alternatives to designation that serve preservation goals
- How geographic attributes are used in designations
- Design guidelines
- Rules that apply to non-contributing buildings and contributing buildings in historic districts
- Ways to encourage owners to seek individual designation

IV. Next Steps

- Meeting #2 – April 10, 3:00 – 5:30 (council members to join as soon as their committee meeting ends)
- Meeting #2 Topics
 - Process
 - Problem Identification
- Future Meetings – Second Tuesday of Each Month – 3:00