



# CITY OF LAS CRUCES

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The following are minutes of the Historic Preservation Commission Meeting held March 19, 2025, in room 2007B, City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Jerry Wallace, Chair  
Ernie Campos  
Dr. Paul John Deason

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Judy A. Berryman  
Jeffrey Shepherd

**STAFF PRESENT:** Adam Ochoa, Senior Planner  
David Weir, Deputy Director Community Development  
Dr. Tim Pitts, Deputy Director Building Development

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cassie McClure, CLC Councilor  
Joe Parro, First American Bank  
George Kennedy, Kemp Smith  
Mel Acosta  
Marco Olivera  
Edward Flores

### 1. CALL TO ORDER (6:04)

Chair Wallace called the meeting to order.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

#### 2.1 February 19, 2025 HPC Minutes

Motion to approve by Paul Deason; seconded by Ernie Campos. Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### 3.1 Historic Building Watch List

Chair Wallace wants to do feedback on this list and then approve at next month's meeting. It would then be posted on the HPC website. Paul

1 Deason send to the Chair and Vice-Chair geodatabases for the Las Cruces  
2 historical structures, and the arts and culture. This study was prepared for  
3 the City of Las Cruces by Armando Morales and presented to the City in  
4 2016. This included a GIS listing for most of the structures, buildings in Las  
5 Cruces, approximately 1,840 historic buildings. Of those, the unclassified  
6 building total was 1,490, and hybrid were 80, and total classified by style  
7 and type were 270. The database for this inventory is currently not known  
8 where it is located. Chair Wallace received an actual City list. He asked  
9 Paul Deason to reintroduce the discussion about this particular GIS next  
10 month's meeting. With the watch list it is to include all of Las Cruces and  
11 not just focus on the corridor of downtown. Paul Deason stated the oldest  
12 building according to the Las Cruces Historic Building Survey is the Drovers  
13 Inn built in 1849. No one has heard of it though.

14  
15 Ernie Campos appreciates the list and asked if they were also looking at  
16 residential housing. Chair Wallace stated that anything that would qualify  
17 as a contributing to our built fabric identity. He will post this for public  
18 feedback and see if the community has any ideas about the list. Revisit the  
19 watch list every January, update it, and then approve it in the February  
20 meeting. Some discussion on buildings that have been torn down over time.  
21 Loretto Town Center and the mall are on the list as Chair Wallace believes  
22 they have contributed to the community. The bank tower is not on the list  
23 but they can add it.

24  
25 **3.2 Country Club Neighborhood Inventory**

26  
27 Chair Wallace wants to work with this neighborhood, and when the historic  
28 preservation specialist is hired, nominated this neighborhood. He thinks  
29 there are 250-300 homes within that community. This could help repair the  
30 trauma of the loss of the Trost country club, and bring in more community  
31 partners into the conversation about historic preservation. For next month,  
32 form a subcommittee to look into this and work with the historic preservation  
33 specialist when hired. He can use his students to help with things also.  
34 Paul Deason learned that the country club area was marketed for the first  
35 buildup of White Sands Missile Range. Talked about the "white house"  
36 across from Tegmeyer's Steak House. Chair Wallace spoke with the  
37 neighborhood committee and they have done a lot of preliminary work on  
38 both the inventory and history and seems they have a lot of documentation.  
39 Ernie Campos stated the Metropolitan Redevelopment Code was adopted  
40 yesterday and this would be the perfect opportunity, the boundaries have  
41 already been established, Apodaca, Bellamah, Mesquite. Staff is good with  
42 helping in this process.

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44 **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1 Chair Wallace stated next month the HPC will be limiting public participation similar  
2 to the City Council of the same amount of minutes for each person.

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4 Paul Deason stated they have several people from Leadership Las Cruces.  
5 George Kennedy, a lawyer at Kemp Smith, stated that Leadership Las Cruces is  
6 to develop young community leaders into better leaders in the community and get  
7 people more invested in the community. Joe Parro stated they get to see leaders  
8 in the community, how they became leaders. Marco Olivera stated they are all  
9 leaders and creating connections and using the connections. There is a website  
10 under the chamber of commerce.

11  
12 Mel Acosta stated he is a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for Doña Ana  
13 County. He has a lot of issues with the City. He stated if there are questions they  
14 will try to accommodate wishes/requests. He thinks the City has taken a good step  
15 forward with Elevate Las Cruces. His concern is water. He has a lot of complaints  
16 off of Mesa Grande. How much water do we have? Can we accommodate an  
17 influx of people to the community? Also of concern is areas of gentrification. Be  
18 sure there is a buffer zone between housing and natural areas. He mentioned  
19 consent agenda and there not being public input on the consent agenda. He  
20 applauds the renovation of the Amador Hotel.

21  
22 Councilor McClure stated that consent agendas, if you go to her and pull it for  
23 discussion, the Council can. Mel Acosta is really concerned about the subdivisions  
24 going in and do we have the water to accommodate. Councilor McClure stated  
25 the City does have a geophysicist that is tracking that. Paul Deason stated the  
26 Mesilla Park Historic Designation is both City of Las Cruces and Village of Mesilla  
27 and the County. And he asked if there is a mechanism to work with all three to be  
28 sure the Mesilla Park Historic District is represented. Chair Wallace asked to return  
29 to the discussion from water back to historic preservation.

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31 **5. STAFF AND COMMISSION COMMENTS**

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33 Adam Ochoa stated next month the HPC agenda is stacked. Chair Wallace is  
34 going to start putting out a call for agenda items a week before he gets the call for  
35 it. Next month will include an update about the historic preservation specialist  
36 position. He has worked with Judy Berryman working on creating a procedural  
37 process for buildings to be nominated to the City list. Also working on the list. And  
38 the watch list approval.

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40 **6. ADJOURNMENT (6:45)**

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42 Motion to adjourn by Paul Deason; seconded by Ernie Campos. Motion passed  
43 unanimously.

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Chairperson