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ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE HEARING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2012 – 4:30 P.M.

CITY COUNCILORS' CONFERENCE ROOM

CITY HALL, 200 LINCOLN AVENUE, SANTA FE

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
September 20, 2012
- E. ACTION ITEMS
 - 1. Case#AR-26-12. Approval of proposed monitoring plan for the construction of a new skate park and other improvements totaling approximately 70,864 sq. ft. The project is located at West De Vargas Park in the Historic Downtown Archaeological Review District. The request is made by Robert Dello-Russo, Office of Archaeological Studies, for the City of Santa Fe.
- F. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- G. COMMUNICATIONS
- H. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE
- I. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR
- J. ADJOURNMENT

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
October 4, 2012

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<u>ACTION ITEMS</u>		
CASE #AR-26-12. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED MONITORING PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SKATE PARK AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 70,864 SQ. FT. THE PROJECT IS LOCATED AT WEST DE VARGAS PARK IN THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW DISTRICT. THE REQUEST IS MADE BY ROBERT DELLO RUSSO, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES, FOR THE CITY OF SANTA FE	Recommended Approval	2-5
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**MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
City Councilors Conference Room
October 4, 2012**

A. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Archaeological Review Committee was called to order by David Eck, Chair, at approximately 4:30 p.m., on October 4, 2012, in the City Councilors Conference Room, City Hall, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present

David Eck, Chair
Tess Monahan, Vice-Chair
Gary Funkhouser
James Edward Ivey
Derek R. Pierce

Others Present

John Murphey, Land Use Department
Melessia Helberg, Stenographer

NOTE: All items in the Committee packet for all agenda items are incorporated herewith to these minutes by reference; and the original Committee packet is on file in, and may be obtained from, the Historic Division.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Tess Monahan moved, seconded by Jake Ivey, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 2, Paragraph 4, line 2, correct as follows: "...of ~~siblings~~ symbols..."

MOTION: Tess Monahan moved, seconded by Jake Ivey, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2012, as amended.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. **CASE #AR-26-12 . APPROVAL OF PROPOSED MONITORING PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SKATE PARK AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 70,864 SQ. FT. THE PROJECT IS LOCATED AT WEST DE VARGAS PARK IN THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW DISTRICT. THE REQUEST IS MADE BY ROBERT DELLO-RUSSO, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES, FOR THE CITY OF SANTA FE**

Chair Eck noted there is a written staff report which was prepared by John Murphey, which is in the Committee packets.

Mr. Murphey said he had nothing to add to the report.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY: At the request of the City of Santa Fe, OAS proposes to conduct archaeological monitoring for the construction of a new skate park, plaza, ramada and the installation of lights, stairs, sidewalks, plantings and other improvements at West De Vargas Park. Work to replace the 1995 skate park will disturb approximately 70,864 sq. ft. The park encompasses a roughly triangular area south of the Santa Fe River. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate it included the early 20th century, a few large adobe dwellings and buildings associated with the Santa Fe Planing Mill. Due to the proximity to recorded sites – LA 20195, LA 103294, LA 71825 and LA 114231 – the City of Santa Fe requested monitoring of construction activity. OAS anticipates monitoring of mechanical excavation can be accomplished in 20 working days. Previous findings, monitoring procedures, personnel and post-field reporting methods are outlined in the accompanying letter. As a project subject to Archaeological Clearance Permits, OAS is requesting approval of the monitoring plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the proposed monitoring plan, as it meets the intent of the City of Santa Fe Archaeological Review District Ordinance (14-5.3) and Archaeological Clearance Permits (14-3.13(B)(1)(c)), and further recommends forwarding this approval to the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, as per NMAC 4.10.17.

Brian Drypolcher, River & Watershed Coordinator, City Public Works Department, introduced Yvonne Oakes, representing Dr. Robert Dello-Russo, Office of Archaeological Studies, and Bill Greenhall, Lockwood Construction.

Mr. Drypolcher said he is the manager of a series of improvements and renovations which will be done up and down the River corridor. He said this is the first phase, and they will be coming back to this Committee for approval of approaches for the remainder of the projects to be done.

Mr. Drypolcher said his understanding is that the Ordinance provides that a clearance is needed for ground disturbance, and asked "ground disturbance to what level." He said, for example, they will be installing new park lights and the footings go in quite deep – 7 feet, and he would assume monitoring would be needed for this. He said they would go down 3-4 feet for a retaining wall and he would presume monitoring would be needed for that as well. However, they will be going down 4-6 inches to form a sidewalk, and asked if that needs monitoring as well. He said they need clarification/direction with regard to monitoring – is it for every bit of ground disturbance, or is there some leeway for monitoring. He said they would like guidance in this respect.

Mr. Murphey said the standard answer is found in Section 14-3.13(B)(c), "For all City projects over 2,500 sq. ft. in gross lot coverage, a permit is required." He said the practice has been to look at projects in their totality. For example, if there is a sidewalk which is not going to have a certain level of disturbance below grade, that would be, perhaps, excluded. However, other things which have more potential to impact cultural resources would be included. He said the initial reconnaissance study done by the archaeologist is supposed to identify what could have a potential impact. He said the archaeologist recommends how to do that to this Committee – whether it requires monitoring, testing, etc. – by looking at the whole project.

Ms. Monahan said a lot has to do with the specifics of the site, and if a sidewalk is in a certain location that requires more excavation on one side than the other, an assessment in the field would be necessary to see whether it would be appropriate. She said, "I don't know that there's a general rule of thumb about sidewalks. I remember other projects where sidewalks have been installed and we had monitoring of some kind."

Mr. Greenhall asked what is the best way to "tackle" this, noting they generally will be working at a specific site, and asked if the best plan is to meet with this Committee, and tell you

what we're doing and what we're doing, and then you will say when you want to be there for monitoring. He asked how to deal with that.

Chair Eck said, "I think we just took a step from a project of certain limits to a much bigger concept."

Mr. Drypolcher clarified that this request is just about West De Vargas Park.

Chair Eck said the people who are "at bat for you," the Office of Archaeological Studies, are the best source of information. He said, "To encapsulate what you [Monahan] said more eloquently, the answer is it depends. And they are in a position to know and advise you appropriately, to say, 'Hey we know all kinds of stuff about this area. We're worried if you disturb even that much. Or, we know all kinds of stuff about another area and we're not worried at all,' because they had already done something there not too long ago. Knowledge about the stratigraphy that exists or may exist in a particular land form and situation is the critical part of it. And that's not us. That's your contractor."

Mr. Greenhall said he isn't here to argue about the process. He wants to be sure he knows the process and it is followed correctly. He said, "I'm just here to learn."

Chair Eck said it is always safe to ask OAS questions, and they won't mislead you.

Mr. Pierce said in different circumstances you could argue that a sidewalk could be excluded from monitoring, but it would need to be in the monitoring plan before the Committee approves it. For example, we are excluding these areas because we believe they already are disturbed, or the depth of the excavation will not get down to known cultural areas, and such.

Chair Eck said OAS will be writing the plan and will represent your best interest in an insurance mode as opposed to a cost-savings mode, but they will represent your best interest.

Ms. Oakes said Ms. Monahan said it best – it depends on the situation and what could be there.

Mr. Drypolcher said he understands this plan is to get clearance to proceed with all projects at West DeVargas Park, and they aren't asking for an exclusion. He said he now understands, for everything within the defined area of work, we are looking for clearance to proceed, and to proceed with the proposed monitoring plan in place.

Chair Eck said this is correct.

Responding to Ms. Monahan, Mr. Drypolcher said he has not seen the proposed monitoring plan.

Ms. Monahan said there are sections which might be helpful to him, noting under *Field Methods and Personnel*, there are general guidelines about how it will proceed, which might answer some of his questions, or lead him to specific questions to which he needs answers.

MOTION: Tess Monahan moved, seconded by Jake Ivey, with regard to Case #AR-26-12, that the Archaeological Review Committee forward a copy of the plan with a recommendation for approval, to the State Archaeologist, at the State Historic Preservation Division, for the proposed monitoring plan for the construction of a new skate park and other improvements totaling approximately 70,864 sq. ft., in the Historic Downtown Archaeological Review District, requested by Robert Dello-Russo, Office of Archaeological Studies, New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, State of New Mexico, finding that it conforms with the provisions of City Ordinance.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Drypolcher asked if this action means that they have a green light to proceed with the project with this monitoring plan.

Mr. Eck said "As soon as the City has carried this to the Historic Preservation Division, as per the recommended forwarding, [noting] they have to approve it because it is a State action.... as soon as they've given you the go-ahead."

Mr. Murphey said, "What usually transpires is, after this hearing, probably tomorrow, I will send notice to the contact at the State that the ARC approved the proposed monitoring program, and she will move forward, and I'll copy you."

F. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Mr. Murphey said in the past the issue has arisen with regard to sub-monitoring of a project which already has been reviewed by ARC, and how to introduce that to ARC. He said, "This is essentially a negative report done by OAS for a pit at the basement of the old Villa Rivera Building." Mr. Murphey provided a copy of the report to the members of the Committee.

Ms. Monahan asked if it will be incorporated into the file for that site and Mr. Murphey said this is what is done typically.

Responding to a question from the stenographer, Chair Eck said, "It is not necessarily a negative report, because it was intended to be a monitoring of a pit and they report what they observed in said pit and characterize what they saw. And if they saw nothing of significance, that's pretty much where it ends. It even went so far as to take a sample of temporally diagnostic artifacts and bricks from this excavation, so it was not purely negative. It was a non-finding."

Mr. Ivey said it was a finding of no significance.

Chair Eck said his recommendation is to put the finding in the file, commenting he presumes they are sharing their activities with the Historic Preservation Division. It was the consensus among the Committee to do as the Chair recommends.

Mr. Eck advised the Committee that there will be sufficient material to hear a case at the next meeting.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

H. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no matters from the Committee.

I. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

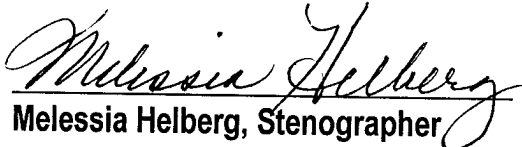
There was no business from the floor.

J. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Derek Pierce moved, seconded by Jake Ivey, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

David Eck, Chair


Melessia Helberg, Stenographer