Historic Preservation Ordinance Review Committee

Houston Archaeological and Historic Commission
April 23, 2015
Historic Preservation Code

Last changed in 2010

- Removed the 90-day waiver
- Changed the way districts are created
- Added Shall Approve criteria
Since 2010

- More than 1,600 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness
- Greater than 90% approval rate
- Three new historic districts
- 50 new Landmarks
- 9 new Protected Landmarks
Historic Preservation code covers less than .004% of Houston city limits.
The Mayor’s instructions:

“to correct and clarify...create greater consistency”

and

“streamlined approval...improved guidance...more efficient/user-friendly process”

and

“do not weaken the protections...refinements to, not an overhaul of”
Committee appointed by the Mayor

HAHC members
- Rob Hellyer
- Douglas Elliott
- Anna Mod

Planning Commission members
- Sonny Garza
- Truman Edminster
Committee meetings were transparent and inclusive:

- Held in the evening in the Annex chambers
- Recorded, streamed, rebroadcast
- Notes and handouts distributed by email to interested parties
- CitizensNet distribution to 7,000
- Public comment at every meeting
Key changes to Code

Recommendations include, among others:

- Increase Administrative Approvals
- Create Design Guidelines process
- Clarify Shall Approves
- Improve criteria for New Construction
- Revise tax exemption policies and rules
- Improve Appeals process
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<th>Task</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post Committee Report</td>
<td>April 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet with interested groups</td>
<td>Through May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Red-line</td>
<td>Early May</td>
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<td>Accept for public comment</td>
<td>Through May</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAHC public meeting</td>
<td>Early June</td>
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<td>Close public comment period</td>
<td>After June 10</td>
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<td>Final changes to HAHC for approval</td>
<td>June 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Committee: Quality of Life</td>
<td>Late July</td>
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<td>City Council considers changes</td>
<td>August</td>
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