

**THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
HARRIS STEINBERG, CHAIR**

**MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2017, 8:30 A.M.
ROOM 18-029, 1515 ARCH STREET**

PRESENT

Harris Steinberg, chair
Dominique Hawkins, vice chair
Leo Addimando
Oscar Beisert
Duane Bumb
Cathy Califano
Carl Dress
Mike Fink
Patrick Grossi
Julia Gutstadt
Nan Gutterman
David Hollenberg
Lou Iatarola
Bob Jaeger
Cory Kegerise
Randy Mason
Trapeta Mayson
Shawn McCaney
Matt McClure
Doug Mooney
Justino Navarro
Aparna Palatino
Laura Spina
Mark Squilla
Bob Thomas
Fon Wang
James Wright

ALSO PRESENT

Karen Black, Task Force Facilitator
Seri Worden, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Jim Lindberg, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Jon Farnham, Philadelphia Historical Commission
Kim Chantry, Philadelphia Historical Commission
Laura DiPasquale, Philadelphia Historical Commission
Meredith Keller, Philadelphia Historical Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Harris Steinberg called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTION

Karen Black welcomed the Task Force members and the public to the second meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force members introduced themselves and indicated their institutional affiliations. Mr. Steinberg introduced new members Trapeta Mayson and Fon Wang.

PRESENTATIONS

Jon Farnham, Executive Director of the Historical Commission, gave a presentation on historic preservation regulation in Philadelphia. He discussed federal, state, and local preservation regulation, incentive programs, and the differences between the National Register of Historic Places and the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. He discussed the challenges facing the Philadelphia Historical Commission with regard to permit review, designation, and other matters. He discussed trends regarding the budgeting, staffing, and workload of the Historical Commission.

Jim Lindberg, Vice President of Research and Policy at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, presented on findings from the Preservation Green Lab studies of Retrofitting Philadelphia (2014) and Atlas of ReUrbanism (2016). He provided statistics comparing Philadelphia to other similar cities in terms of historic preservation and building reuse. He provided numerous graphs showing Philadelphia in comparison to other municipalities and maps showing areas for opportunity in the city.

Patrick Grossi, Director of Advocacy at the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, presented on The State of Preservation: An Advocacy Perspective. He provided background on the Alliance and examples of successful rehabilitation projects and also recent demolitions. He discussed preservation opportunities and challenges, as they are expressed to his organization by its constituents.

Mr. Steinberg opened the floor to questions from the Task Force members. Several members asked questions related to the presentations.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Ms. Black, the Task Force facilitator, announced the four subcommittees: surveying historic resources, incentivizing preservation, regulating for preservation outcomes, and outreach and education.

CIVIC OUTREACH PLAN

Laura Spina, co-chair of the outreach and education subcommittee, announced that the Task Force would hold a public meeting on 3 October 2017 at the Independence Visitors Center from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. She and others will provide facilitation training on 28 September 2017 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and she asked that Task Force members attend the training and meeting if possible.

DRAFT VISION

Mr. Steinberg presented the draft vision for discussion, as follows:

Philadelphia in 2030 has preserved the unique identity of its historic buildings, blocks and neighborhoods while embracing new investment. Philadelphians are active protectors of their neighborhood history and cultural identity. In partnership

with foundations, developers, civic leaders and government, residents identified the buildings, sites and places that are important to protect for future generations in order to tell the story of Philadelphia and its people. The city uses regulations and incentives to protect these important places that reflect the values of its residents and results in the extraordinary layering of history that makes Philadelphia unique.

Task Force members offered several comments for improving the vision statement. They suggested using the present and future tense, not the past tense; reducing the emphasis on regulating; and accentuating that preservation is about managing change, not preventing it; and that reminding all that preservation contributes to economic and community vitality. Mr. Steinberg observed that he will continue to refine the vision statement.

QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE

Ms. Black read two questions written by members of the audience inquiring about the lack of a representative from the tourism industry on the Task Force, and the challenges of integrating sustainability and energy efficiency with historic preservation.

FIRST WHITE PAPER

Ms. Black explained that the first white paper on the current state of historic preservation in Philadelphia is due in November as a draft. She noted that the Task Force members will use the three presentations from today to inform their writing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Steinberg adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.