



Minutes

City of Cortez

Historic Preservation Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Regular Meeting 5:00 p.m.

Meeting will be held in the Mesa Verde Room

City Hall: 123 Roger Smith Ave

Holly Tatnall, Chair & Cortez
Cultural Center

Nina Thao, Planning
& Zoning Commission

Elizabeth Quinn MacMillan,
MCHS

Linda Towle, Vice Chair

Brian Yaquinto

Helen West, City Staff

Mitchell Toms, Chamber of
Commerce (excused)

Diane McBride

Dr. April Randle, Council
Liaison (excused/represented)

I. Introductions of those present: Jason Armstrong in place of Helen, Dennis Spruell for Dr. Randle

Public Input/Comments:

II. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2025 meeting: Towle moves to accept minutes as corrected, Quinn MacMillan seconds. Approved.

III. New Business

- i. Election of Officers – Approved slate as proposed by Towle:
 - i. Holly Tatnall as Chairman
 - ii. Linda Towle for Vice Chairman
 - iii. Liz Quinn MacMillan as Secretary
- b. Work Plan for 2026 – Towle moves to accept, McBride seconds. Approved.
 - i. Only note is to double check on CLG grant wrap up in July, may be later due to delay in grant funding.

IV. Old Business

- a. 2026 CLG Grant Project Discussion – Towle sent a potential project to inventory several properties (schools and commercial). Quinn MacMillan moves to approve the proposed project for the 2026 CLG grant application, McBride seconds. Approved.
 - i. What happens with private property – can we do a full and useful survey?
 - We can do this by staying on the sidewalk and generally following the same procedures as Cortez city staff do when they survey.
 - Can we reach out and ask homeowners to get a look inside? We have not in the past, but we could try.

- ii. Not for 2026, but what about a Historical Context document? The 2022 Historic Resources Survey Plan updated this, and our annual CLG reports each year have built on it. Will do a “training day” and review with this with new members.
 - iii. Not for 2026, but what about updating and printing a new walking tour brochure? Has been reprinted several times, but not in the last 10 years. Could be a good future project now that the Montezuma Heritage Museum is open and can serve as a point of contact.
- b. 2025 CLG Grant Update – Helen wrote up social media and other outreach documents (working with Liz & Ryan), Ryan coming in tomorrow to MHM to do newspaper research. Helen will send off a physical flier to the board for sharing locally and with specific families.
- c. Report on the Southwest CLG Forum - Helen & Linda attended via Zoom.
 - i. They did discover that Cortez was in a Greenbook; more information coming.
 - ii. Talked a lot about ways to engage the public.
 - iii. Federal budget remains the same, State budget continues, etc.
- d. Rooted in Place – The flume and CCC camp were both submitted.
 - i. The deadline has been extended to next Monday, so Linda would like to submit for Calkins, Montezuma Valley Bank (KSJD), and maybe the Cortez Cultural Center.
- e. Update on 410 East Empire Application for Historic Designation – They did get the needed site number, and now both nominations will go to the City Council.
- f. Ideas for Historic Preservation events for 2026
 - i. Current Cortez 140 Events – Drone Show in August during the Balloon Rendezvous. Do we have any ideas for customization? Pull from Cortez Coloring Book, Historic Photos.
 - ii. Linda working on Cortez 140 themed Parade of Lights – will follow-up on the Grand Marshal – Maybe Historic Preservation Committee, Montezuma Heritage Museum, or Anne Brown?
 - iii. Quilt Display for Cortez 140 proposed by Quilt Shop
 - iv. Blocks Without Borders – may make a Cortez 140 Quilt to display starting in the summer at City Hall, Quilt Show, and other community locations.
 - v. 1st Annual Heritage Days on May 8th & 9th – to build upon the stuff we’ve already done for HP Day (scavenger hunts, etc., with a re-emphasis on walking tours)
 - vi. Could we do a program in November around CCC camp to align with the 75th Anniversary of the camp's closing?
- g. Historic Signs – HP Board started in 1996 to protect signs. Of the original 8 designated signs, 4 are still up, but 2 are not in great shape. Is there a creative way to preserve them? Museum, art installations, murals.

V. Other Business:

VI. Update from Representatives on Board

- a. City Council Representative: Not too much, updated the council on our last meeting, and reminded them to remind our realtors to impart information on historic properties.
- b. Realtor: Slightly more homes sold in 2025 than in 2024, our median sales price is lower than the state, just one eligible property currently for sale (30 W 1st Street)

- c. Cortez Cultural Center: Doing monthly Everybody Eats programs, trying to figure out how to handle the CCC's collection of Ancestral Puebloan pottery, lots of programming!
- d. Chamber of Commerce: no update.
- e. Planning and Zoning: Just wrapping up holiday break and getting back to work.
- f. Montezuma County Historical Society: Working on 2026 Programming, Heritage Day Planning, and Ute Knowledge History CO exhibit opening this week.

VII. Adjourn.