



## Minutes

City of Cortez

Historic Preservation Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Regular Meeting 5:00 p.m.

Meeting held in the Mesa Verde Room

City Hall: 123 Roger Smith Ave

Holly Tatnall, Chair & Cortez  
Cultural Center

Nina Thao, Planning  
& Zoning Commission  
(excused)

Elizabeth Quinn MacMillan,  
MCHS

Linda Towle, Vice Chair

Brian Yaquinto

Helen West, City Staff

Mitchell Toms, Chamber of  
Commerce

Diane McBride  
(excused)

Dr. April Randle, Council  
Liaison

### I. Introductions of those present:

Public Input/Comments:

**II. Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2025 meeting:** Change on Update from Board Reps, City Council, Minor edit for clarification. Towle Moves. Brian Seconds. Approved.

### III. New Business

- a. Section 106 for 11 S Broadway and/ 19 S Broadway – Board discussed email letter soliciting feedback related to historic preservation on an addition to an existing tower.
  - No additional ground disturbance, etc., so not a lot of impact from a historic preservation perspective. Only visual effects in the area.
  - Towle Moves that we notify American Towers, LLC that we do not believe that there will be any adverse effect to adding height to the existing tower, and we are forwarding this recommendation to the City Manager for compliance with other City regulations. Quinn MacMillan Seconds. Approved.

### IV. Old Business

- a. 2026 CLG Grant Project Discussion –
  - No comments on the grant draft.
  - Do we need more than one estimate for the application budget? No. But we will need more bids for the final selection.
    - We did get one estimate that is right on the edge of the \$25,000 maximum budget and would go over if they had to travel down more than once because of the high cost of travel expenses.
    - Side note: Blake Builder, local architect, was interested in working with the HPB and may be able to compete for this or other inventory grants

locally. He will get Linda his resume, and Lindsay from History CO can review it to see if he meets the necessary qualifications.

- Will also need letters of support from property owners now.
  - The School District Superintendent has agreed to write a letter of support
  - A couple of other businesses to approach to support:
    - Holly will talk to Cortez Milling and Cork n' Bottle,
    - Liz will talk to KRTZ and Alpine Dentistry
    - Linda will send some talking points
- b. 2025 CLG Grant Update
  - Everything is going well. Ryan updates:
    - Lots of interest in the project, including a story on the local radio station
    - He was invited to speak at the Colorado Archaeological Society's Hisatsinom Chapter
    - He has been doing a lot of archival research
    - The City recently submitted an interim report
- c. Ideas for Historic Preservation events for 2026
  - Drone Show – Helen shared the Durango version
    - Cultural Center Building, Native Dances, Cattle/Ranching, Sale Barn, Wilson Building, Calkins School, Montezuma Avenue, Notah Dineh, Point Lookout, Sleeping Ute, Parks, Pottery, Blue Bird Flour, Galloping Goose, McPhee, etc.
  - Heritage Days – HPB led historic walking tours
    - Existing Montezuma, Ash, Main Street – perhaps someone can edit and reformat these.
    - Linda has written up a plan of action.
    - Quinn MacMillan moves that we make a subcommittee to plan for Heritage Days & Walking Tour subcommittee (Liz, Holly, & Linda). Towle Seconded. Approved.
  - Patriotic Quilt Exhibit up and down Main Street
  - CREA Grant for 2026/CO 140 Swag – Helen will narrow down some options to review at the next meeting.
- d. Historic Signs
  - Kelly McCabe has photos of some of the historic signs in their original locations – can be scanned and/or donated to the Montezuma Heritage Museum.
  - Currently, the signs are at Hole in the Wall near Moab, UT. Linda will visit them soon.
- e. Review 2026 Work Plan
  - We are on track and adjusted a few dates, including pushing off the City Council presentation until the new Council is elected.
- f. Rooted in Place
  - Write-ups on the Flume, Calkins School, Cortez 140, Cortez Cultural Center, etc., submitted thanks to Helen, Linda, and Holly. Linda asked Lindsay from the state to take photos of any of our submissions to the Saving Places Conference next week.
- g. Historic Context for Cortez

- Background: These have been updated many times since 1996, so we still may want to add Ryan's CCC camp and prehistoric contexts.
- Could we pull this out into a separate document to share on the website?
  - Helen will pull in the new sections from Ryan, and the board can review.

## **V. Other Business:**

### **VI. Update from Representatives on Board**

- a. City Council Representative: Passed Ordinances 1354 and 1355 – the two recommended properties; Former Empire Electric property is being purchased by the City and will be reviewed for building's engineering needs - could be used for Police Department or more administrative space; April 7<sup>th</sup> is City Council election. Also, on the ballot: Charter Updates, including spelling/grammar, Council duties, electronic meeting attendance, and term limits
- b. Realtor: N/A
- c. Cortez Cultural Center: Art exhibit is changing, Everybody Eats events happening 1–2x a month, New drum circle, Birding Festival in May, and more!
- d. Chamber of Commerce: Several Business After Hours events coming up
- e. Planning and Zoning: Catholic Church took down a building, and on the agenda to discuss the rebuild
- f. Montezuma County Historical Society: Heritage Days Planning, 2026 Program Planning, Moments That Made Us Development, Yesterday's Stories on KSJD from May – October, and more behind the scenes with Teen Team and collections work.

## **VII. Adjourn.**