

Historic Preservation Plan Public Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013

6 – 7:15 p.m.

Municipal Building Lobby, 1777 Broadway

Attendees: Four Landmarks Board members, 31 members of the public, and eight staff members.

Purpose

The purpose of this initial meeting was to introduce the project, gather input on the current program and develop goals and objectives of the plan. The meeting began with a presentation by Historic Preservation Planner James Hewat, who gave an overview of the purpose of the plan and the anticipated timeframe. Consultant Mary Therese Anstey, principal of HistoryMatters LLC, provided an overview of her work to date, followed by a question and answer session.

The group then broke into small discussion groups, each facilitated by a staff member and guided by two questions. The first question was focused on the current program and the second was intended to gather input of what the future of the program should be. Landmarks Board members were present to observe, and met immediately after to discuss the same framework questions.

Following the small discussions, the key points were reported to the larger group. The meeting ended around 7:15 p.m. and approximately 10 members of the public stayed for the Landmarks Board discussion.

Main Themes from the Small Group Discussions

1) What comments do you have on the Historic Preservation program? What key issues should the plan address?

- The Historic Preservation program as a whole is of value to the community.
- Negative public perception of the Historic Preservation program/Landmarks Board may discourage homeowners from designating their properties or supporting historic district designation.
- Public outreach and education efforts should be expanded.
- Historic Preservation incentives are an important tool for encouraging the preservation of significant resources and should be advertised more broadly.

2) What should historic preservation in Boulder look like in 10 years? What should the main goals and objectives of the historic preservation program be?

- Education and outreach should be a top priority, and the city should strengthen its partnership with local organizations to promote historic preservation in Boulder.
- The value of historic preservation, including the inherent sustainability of retaining an existing structure and the importance of preservation in establishing community character, should be promoted.
- The demolition process should be revisited; the inability for the board to consider what is being proposed or the extent of demolition is problematic.
- Conservation Districts should be considered to provide an “in-between” designation that would preserve the mass, scale, and character of a neighborhood without regulation on details such as windows and materials.
- Regarding the design guidelines, some people felt they should be more restrictive and others felt they should be less so. Support for increased flexibility of the guidelines centered on windows, new materials and sustainability concerns.