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March 9, 2022

Mr. Robert Broscheid, Executive Director
Mr. Dale Larsen, Chair
Arizona State Parks Board
1110 W. Washington, Ste. 100
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Arizona Historical Advisory Commission Recommendations Regarding SHPO Scoring and Funding for Five Preservation Focus Heritage Fund Grant Applications submitted for the February 1, 2022, deadline

Dear Executive Director Broscheid and Chair Larsen:

A quorum of the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) met virtually via Zoom on February 28, 2021. At that meeting, Dr. William Collins, National Register of Historic Places Program Coordinator, Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) introduced the five Preservation Focus Heritage Fund Grant Applications submitted by the February 1, 2022, deadline. The five applications included (in alphabetical order as listed on the February 28 agenda):

- 1908 Old Vail Post Office Rehabilitation, submitted by the Vail Preservation Society
- Historic Fort Lowell Rehabilitation, submitted by the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department [note, submitter had been incorrectly listed as the City of Tucson Housing Department in the SHPO memo to AHAC dated February 17, 2022]
- Teatro Carmen Rehabilitation (Tucson), submitted by Stratford Art Works, Inc.
- Tucson Mountain Park – Juan Santa Cruz Campground Rehabilitation, submitted by the Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation
- Update of Historic Preservation Master Plan and Homeowner Guide, submitted by the City of Prescott Historic Preservation Office

Following Dr. Collins's listing of the submittals, AHAC went into executive session to discuss each project more fully, with each set of applicants present only for their project and available for any questions from AHAC Commissioners. In addition to AHAC Commissioners and State Library staff providing administrative support, others present for the entire executive session included Bo Dul, attorney from the office of the Arizona Secretary of State, Dr. Collins, and Kathryn Leonard, Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer.

During each segment of the executive session when specific representatives for each application were present, the representatives were asked if they wanted to make any comments, and Commissioners made a few comments and posed one question. In regard to the Tucson Mountain Park submission by the Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation, Vice Chair Nahmias asked the applicants to verify if the personnel named in the application were the management team only, and this was confirmed to be the case. They noted that planning and design contractors would be chosen through a competitive process. Ms. Nahmias also suggested that the team take

a look at their proposed interpretive strategies with an eye to updating them to meet more current approaches. During the segment when the City of Prescott Historic Preservation Office was present, the applicant was encouraged to request a debrief, when appropriate, regarding their application with SHPO staff. Once the last applicant left the executive session, AHAC Commissioners discussed the projects with SHPO staff present and among themselves. Commissioners discussed the funding levels for each application (based on SHPO scoring for each) and asked questions about the ranking for the application submitted by the City of Prescott Historic Preservation Office. Commissioners agreed with SHPO staff that this particular application was deficient in many of the required areas for evaluation and should not be funded at this time. Finally, Commissioners felt that every dollar of the available funds should not be awarded, but that a small amount should be left as a “contingency” fund, potentially to cover unanticipated costs or price increases in materials that may arise during the implementation of the projects funded during the current cycle. At the end of the discussion, AHAC moved out of executive session and returned to regular session. One AHAC Commissioner (Ms. Becky Blain) had left at the end of the executive session, but the quorum was not lost.

In regard to the five Preservation Focus Heritage Fund Grant Applications received by the February 1, 2022, submission deadline, Vice Chair Nahmias moved and Commissioner Yoder seconded a motion to approve funding levels as follows:

Pima County Office of Sustainability [and Conservation] for \$190,000;
Vail Preservation Society for \$249,600;
Stratford Artworks, [Inc.] for \$300,000;
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department for \$300,000;

and further recommend denial of the application [submitted] by the City of Prescott Historic Preservation Office.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Thank you again for affording AHAC the opportunity to be involved in the Heritage Fund Grant Process. During executive session discussions with SHPO staff, AHAC Commissioners expressed a desire to review the process and application form for next year’s Heritage Fund Grants with SHPO staff to make suggestions for possible improvements. This discussion could take place at an upcoming AHAC meeting.

If you have any questions about AHAC’s recommendations, please contact me at (520) 907-9677 or via e-mail at tmajewski@srircrm.com.

Sincerely,



Teresita Majewski, Ph.D., RPA, FSA
Chair, Arizona Historical Advisory Commission

cc (all via e-mail):

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