



Historic Preservation Board Meeting Minutes



March 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building

271 W. 3rd Street

2nd floor

Wichita, KS 67202

Attendance

1. Members present – Emily Taylor, Barb Myers, Debra Miller Stevens, Janiece Baum Dixon, Claire Willenberg, Celeste Racette, Bruce Rowley
2. Members absent- None
3. Staff present- Christina Rieth, Philip Zevenbergen

Order of Business

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

CONSENT AGENDA

- HPC2062-00062: OT-O Old Town Overlay, Warehouse and Jobbers Historic District (RHKP, NRHP) - adjustment to HPC2015-00031 to allow nonilluminated projecting sign, HPC2021-00052 to allow illuminated wall sign of similar dimensions (141 North Rock Island Avenue).

PROJECT REVIEW

- HPC2026-00053: Riley-Holden Block (RHKP, NRHP) - Conditional Use request for Entertainment Establishment in the City (1029 West Douglas Avenue).

HIGHLAND CEMETARY BOARD DISCUSSION

Agenda Item 1

- HPC2062-00062: OT-O Old Town Overlay, Warehouse and Jobbers Historic District (RHKP, NRHP) - adjustment to HPC2015-00031 to allow nonilluminated projecting sign, HPC2021-00052 to allow illuminated wall sign of similar dimensions (141North Rock Island Avenue).



- o Replace an existing illuminated building wall sign and a projecting wall sign.
- o The original signs were approved in 2015 and 2021.
- o New signs will be installed in the same locations, with fasteners placed in mortar rather than brick.

Staff recommended approval, finding that the proposed meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The motion was made by Debra Miller Stevens, Seconded by Celeste Racette

Agenda Item 2

- HPC2026-00053: Riley-Holden Block (RHKP, NRHP) - Conditional Use request for Entertainment Establishment in the City (1029 West Douglas Avenue).
 - o The property is listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The request covers live entertainment, alcohol service, and occupancy under 300.
 - o The applicant described a "trio" concept: bookstore, coffee shop, and bar
 - o No new construction or demolition is proposed; the historic character will be preserved

Staff recommended approval, finding that the proposed meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The motion was made by Celeste Racette, Seconded by Janiece Baum Dixon.

Agenda Item 3

HIGHLAND CEMETARY BOARD DISCUSSION

- o Ongoing issues at Highland Cemetery include damage to gravestones and fences, and apparent lack of awareness by the Park Department.
- o Current funding of \$131,000 for five city cemetery entities is insufficient.
- o The board's cemetery oversight dates to a 1982 designation; clarification of current responsibility was requested.
- o A city attorney noted state law permits creation of a dedicated cemetery board by ordinance.