



State of Texas

County of Brazoria

City of Freeport

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Historical Commission and Main Street Advisory of Freeport, Texas, met on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Freeport The Nat Hickey Education Center located at 311 E Park Ave, Freeport, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

The following attendees were present:

Board Members: Irene Ocañas  
Betty Lopez  
Flora Green  
Michelle Backman  
Lon Siddall  
James Wood

Staff: Maria Lopez - Main Street Coordinator  
Dr. Danielle Kelly-City Manager  
Robert Johnson- Economic Development Director  
Chris Duncan-City Attorney  
Jennifer Howell-Police Chief, Assistant City Manager  
Loretta Cady-Interim Museum Manager

Visitors: David McGinty, Kathy Ragan

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Irene Ocañas called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

**Invocation/Pledge**

Chair Irene Ocañas led the invocation and pledge

**Public Comments - (This is an opportunity for citizens and visitors to address the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board on any agenda or non-agenda item. Individuals must register in advance and adhere to a (4) two-minute time limit.)**

No public comments were received as no one had signed up to speak.

## **PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### Staff Announcements

#### Main Street Update

Maria Lopez provided information about an upcoming Main Street roundtable titled "Bringing Back Main Street" scheduled for January 28th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in Richmond, approximately 45 minutes away. The event is free, and Maria offered to coordinate transportation for interested board members.

Maria also distributed a Community Assessment Worksheet that needs to be completed by January 16th. While optional, this worksheet will help with the annual report due on January 23rd to Main Street America. She also mentioned quarterly report deadlines: Texas Main Street quarterly report due January 12th and Main Street America report due January 23rd.

#### Museum Update

Loretta provided an update about the museum, explaining that Wade Dillon had resigned as museum manager, and she is now serving as the interim manager. The museum is preparing for first quarter activities, including a Martin Luther King Jr. event, a Black History event, two lectures, and a Dinosaur George event in March.

She mentioned that some Main Street materials were being stored at the museum, including two benches from a plastic recycling initiative (one assembled, one still in its box), a Dia de los Muertos tablecloth, and other miscellaneous items. She indicated that while space was limited, the current Main Street materials could remain stored there for now.

#### Chair Comments

Chair Ocañas welcomed the new city manager, Dr. Danielle Kelly, noting that Dr. Kelly had attended the Christmas on Main event and was impressed with the turnout. Chair Ocañas commended Maria Lopez for her work on the Christmas on Main event, highlighting her effective use of city resources and teamwork to make the event successful.

## **BUSINESS-REGULAR SESSION:**

### Consideration and possible action to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes.

The Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board reviewed the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes that were previously emailed and provided in hard copy. A motion to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Lon, seconded by James Wood, with all present voting "Aye", the motion passed unanimously.

### Discuss the status of the Interlocal Agreement with Brazoria County (2nd Street Project).

Robert Johnson reported that the Brazoria County Commissioner's Court had approved the interlocal agreement for the 2nd Street paving project. While no specific timeline was provided, the project is now officially in progress. Mr. Johnson also updated the board on the TIRZ project for the alleyway, mentioning they were working with CenterPoint to determine exact depth requirements for burying gas valves.

Discuss and update on the See My Legacy one-stop campaign platform.

Maria Lopez informed the board that she had proceeded with the See My Legacy platform subscription using funds from her software maintenance budget at a cost of \$2,299 annually. The subscription does not automatically renew. She addressed previous questions raised during the virtual meeting with the company representative, noting that while user information would be accessible, volunteers would need to sign up separately for each event rather than creating a permanent account.

Maria suggested that at the next meeting or in February, the board could discuss potential campaigns to launch using the platform. She mentioned that the first campaign would likely be for the flagpole restoration project near the downtown Christmas tree.

Discuss Christmas on Main 2025, including an overview of expenditures and sponsoring partners for goals and budgeting for the upcoming year.

Maria Lopez distributed a detailed spreadsheet of Christmas on Main expenditures and sponsorships. She highlighted key sponsored items including the Christmas tree (funded by EDC), tamales (sponsored by Texas Gulf Bank at \$775), and a balloon arch (sponsorship pending from BASF at \$780).

Chair Ocañas emphasized the importance of creating an annual budget for events to facilitate approaching potential sponsors, particularly local industry partners. The spreadsheet also indicated which decorative items are now owned by the city versus those that were leased, such as the Christmas tree. There was brief discussion about whether to purchase or continue leasing the tree in future years, with consideration given to storage constraints.

Consideration and possible action to select the date for the Main Street New Year Kick-Off at the Downtown Event Center, and review the event planning logistics.

Maria Lopez proposed January 29th (Thursday) at 6:30 PM as the tentative date for the Main Street New Year Kickoff networking event at the Downtown Event Center. The purpose of this event would be to educate the community about Main Street, refresh people about the previous visioning session, display strategies on easels for feedback, and build partnerships.

Chair Ocañas suggested that if they don't hear back from the venue by the end of December, they should either move the date or find another venue, noting they needed at least a month to properly plan the event. She recommended developing a focused program with assigned roles for board members to make the event purposeful beyond just networking.

Consideration and possible action to review and reorganize the Design, Promotion, Economic Vitality, and Organization subcommittees.

Maria Lopez distributed information about the four Main Street subcommittees (Design, Promotions, Economic Vitality, and Organization) and requested that board members review the materials and indicate which committee they would prefer to serve on. Chair Ocañas encouraged members to consider their preferences and notify Maria before the January meeting.

Robert Johnson suggested seeking community members with relevant professional backgrounds to serve on committees, particularly noting that architects would be valuable for the Design committee and bankers for the Economic Vitality committee. Board members were also encouraged to recruit qualified community members to serve on the subcommittees.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION- NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Discuss ways to build a property inventory for Downtown Freeport.

Discuss ways to build a property inventory for Downtown Freeport - This would involve updating existing inventory information, identifying current owners, and making the information available to potential investors through a state website.

Discuss the Main Street Transformation Strategy Work Plan for 2026.

Discuss the Main Street Transformation Strategy Work Plan for 2026 - Maria distributed materials for board members to review before the January 15th meeting, requesting that each member come prepared with one or two goals to incorporate into the plan, which is due to Texas Main Street quarterly and to Main Street America annually.

Discuss the Freeport Downtown flagpole restoration project/campaign.

Discuss the Freeport Downtown flagpole restoration project/campaign — Betty Lopez emphasized the historical significance of the flagpole, which served as Freeport's original hurricane alert system before modern weather forecasting was available. There was discussion about not only restoring the flagpole but also potentially incorporating modern technology to provide current weather information.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

##### Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Lon Siddall, seconded by James Wood, with all present voting “Aye” the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM.



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Maria Lopez, Main Street Coordinator  
City of Freeport, Texas