



CITY OF RIALTO
THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION &
COMMISSION

The regularly scheduled Neighborhood Beautification & Historical Preservation Commission meeting of the City of Rialto was held in the City of Rialto City Council Chambers located at 150 South Palm Avenue, Rialto, California 92376, on November 12, 2025.

This meeting was called by the presiding officer of the City of Rialto Neighborhood Beautification & Historical Preservation Commission in accordance with the provisions of **Government Code §54956** of the State of California.

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CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Ivan Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by Administrative Analyst, Kim Dame.

Present:

Vice-Chair Ivan Ramirez
Commissioner Cliff Houser, Jr.
Commissioner Joe Lyons
Commissioner Lisa Bartley
Commissioner Roberto Solis, Jr. (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)
Commissioner Salvator Torres

Absent:

Chair Brenda Parker

Staff Present:

Community Development Director, Christina Taylor
Principal Planner, Daniel Casey
Administrative Analyst, Kim Dame

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ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS

John Lenou addressed the Commission regarding historic preservation concerns within the City. Topics included:

- Tree trimming near historic structures, including the 1853 adobe at Bud Bender Park and the 1906 church at 201 N. Riverside Ave., noting potential roof damage from overgrown trees.
- Interest in preservation of the Pacific Electric Station near Riverside Avenue as the hike and bike trail is extended.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

- Upcoming Route 66 Centennial in 2026, suggesting banners identifying historic sites such as the Rialto Adobe.
- Encouraged collaboration with the Rialto Historical Society, including visits to the museum and historic church.
- Suggested creating an inventory of historic plaques, monuments, and markers in the City to prevent their loss or removal.

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**COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Commission reviewed the minutes from the October 8, 2025, meeting.

Vice Chair Ramirez noted a correction regarding the motion to adjourn.

A motion was made to approve the minutes with correction. Motion was seconded.

Vote:

Ayes: 6 (Ramirez, Torres, Bartley, Solis, Houser, Lyons)

Opposed: 0

Absent: 1 (Parker)

Motion carried.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

The first item presented was Historic Preservation Responsibilities.

Community Development Director Christina Taylor made the presentation, which was an overview of the Historic Preservation responsibilities as outline in Rialto Municipal Code section 2.20.050.

Key points included:

- The Commission is responsible for both Neighborhood Beautification and Historic Preservation functions.
- Current municipal code includes duties related to historic preservation, but the historic preservation section of the code was previously removed, creating limitations.
- Staff will evaluate options for restoring or revising the historic preservation code section.

Potential Commission Activities

- Identifying and recommending historic landmarks.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Recognizing property owners maintaining historic properties.
- Developing and maintaining a list of historic resources within the city.
- Identifying grant funding or external resources to support preservation efforts.
- Advising City Council regarding policies impacting historic resources.

Certificate of Appropriateness

Staff explained the former Certificate of Appropriateness process, which required Commission review of modifications to historic structures. This process is currently inactive due to the absence of supporting code provisions.

Commission Discussion

Commissioners discussed the importance of maintaining authority to review changes to historic structures and ensuring preservation of historic resources.

Motion:

Vice Chair Ramirez moved to direct staff to explore restoring the Historic Preservation section of the municipal code and report back to the Commission. Second by Commissioner Solis.

Vote:

Ayes: 6 (Ramirez, Torres, Bartley, Solis, Houser, Lyons)

Opposed: 0

Absent: 1 (Parker)

Motion carried.

Staff will evaluate options and provide an update at a future meeting.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Community Development Director Christina Taylor asked the Commission whether to hold the next scheduled meeting on December 10, 2025, due to proximity to the holidays.

Commissioners indicated availability and agreed to tentatively hold the meeting pending confirmation of quorum.

Staff will conduct a quorum check prior to the meeting.

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COMMISSIONER **COMMENTS**

Commissioners provided comments and observations regarding beautification and preservation opportunities throughout the city.

Commissioner Bartley:

- Asked about the status of a program to paint electrical utility boxes with artwork.
- Raised concerns about landscaping and maintenance along Baseline Avenue, including medians and curb areas.

Commissioner Solis:

Presented several observations and ideas for future consideration, including:

- Standardizing park signage throughout the city.
- Reviewing and improving median landscaping design consistency.
- Addressing property maintenance issues at commercial centers.
- Enhancing landscaping at older parks to match newer park improvements.
- Exploring electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including new charging standards and potential installation locations within Rialto.

Commissioner Torres:

Suggested potential priorities for the Commission, including:

- Improving historic building recognition and wayfinding signage.
- Encouraging civic engagement in beautification projects.
- Developing neighborhood designation signage.
- Promoting murals in the downtown area.
- Establishing a Commission seal or recognition program for historic properties.

Commissioner Houser:

Expressed concern regarding insufficient street lighting in certain residential areas, particularly along Cedar Avenue.

Vice Chair Ramirez:

Raised questions regarding:

- Responsibility for damaged residential walls adjacent to streets.
- Electric vehicle charging requirements for new developments.
- Maintenance of existing charging stations.

COMMISSIONER
COMMENTS

Staff clarified that infrastructure requirements vary depending on the development approval conditions.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular Neighborhood Beautification and Historical Preservation Commission meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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Minutes prepared by Kim Dame
Administrative Analyst

Ivan Ramirez
Vice-Chair, Neighborhood Beautification & Historical Preservation
Commission