

Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held at the Fig Garden Regional Library on September 17, 2009.

Members present: Randy McFarland, Susan Pappas, Elizabeth Laval, Aileen Bos, Don Shantz, Roger Taylor, Pat Hunter, Nancy Enloe, Stephen Barile, Bud Olson, James Kus, Ethan Kyle, David Berkey, Penny Raven.

Members absent: John Baltierra

Others present: Doris Smile, Glenyce Cropper, Debra Marsh, Lynn Hurst, Diane Hurst, Dennis L. Garrett, Bill and Bernice Darnell, Chip Blythe, Steve LaFerrera, Bill Huone, John Krikorian, Erik Hermansen, Jim Shekoyan, Bill Robinson, Judie Moradian, Bill Secrest Jr., Bernard Jiminez, Karana Hattersley-Drayton, Karen Bosch Cobb, Karen Coletti.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Chairman Randy McFarland called the meeting to order.
- 2) Welcome: Chairman McFarland welcomed all guests and introduced Pat Hunter to the Commission.
- 3) Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as distributed.
- 4) Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 21, 2009 were approved.
- 5) Comments from the Public: None
- 6) California History & Genealogy Room Acquisitions: Bill Secrest Jr. explained the Santa Monica Book Fair September 15, 2009. He also spoke of the "Cabins in Mineral King" book and the Mineral Kings District Association website.
- 7) Records-None.
- 8) Landmarks
 - a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County
 - i) Consider Historic District Designation for Sierra Sky Park (SSP)-The Public Hearing was continued from May 21, 2009. Karen Bosch Cobb reread the staff report, which was provided in May and gave additional information about the designation process.
 - (1) Chairman McFarland explained the purpose of the HLRC and opened the meeting for comments.
 - (a) Mr. Bill Darnell, 4157 W. Kelly, Fresno, CA 93722 requested that the Commission approve Sierra Sky Park due to its historic merit.

- (b) Mr. Bill Robinson SOL Development, 906 N. Street, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93721 reminded the Commission of the letter presented May 21, 2009 and asked that it be part of the record. He presented a letter dated September 17 to Commission.
- (c) Chairman McFarland read the letter from Herndon-Doolittle Associates Inc. (HAD) signed by James E. Shekoyan. The letter states that HAD, Sierra Sky Park Airport and joint venturers Rick Ginder and George Knapp do not oppose the application, subject to the conditions: that the placement (a) will not affect the development of lots 107 and 108 and (b) will not affect the processing of Parcel Maps, etc. (See letter for details). Chairman McFarland directed that this letter, as well as the letter dated May 21, 2009 be part of the records relating to the application.
- (d) Mr. Doug Betts, EAA Chapter 376, 4974 Fresno St. #343, Fresno, CA 93726 stated that the EAA Chapter owns a piece of property in SSP which has an approved building site plan for a 6,000 square foot hanger. The building will serve a dual purpose for Chapter activities and as the Bill Smilie Aviation Center. The Chapter is already marking the historic nature of SSP. Meetings have taken place with local area youth to start an Aviation Club.
- (e) Chairman McFarland reiterated that the HLRC is not a planning commission and does not decide on planning matters and that the Commission is not dealing with a planning matter. He stated that the Commission members understand that there are planning issues involved in SSP Historic District because of the City annex of the runway. He reminded Commission members and those in the audience that they are dealing with the merits of the historical application.
- (f) Mr. Bill Darnell, 4157 W. Kelly, Fresno, CA 93722 appreciates support of it being a historic landmark, but does not support abandoning Doolittle.
- (g) Mr. Bill Robinson, SOL Development, 906 N Street, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93721. Chairman McFarland asked how the Commission is supposed to guarantee actions of another public agency, i.e. the City of Fresno that has jurisdiction over planning matters, which the HLRC does not have. Mr. Robinson stated that the challenge to the designation is withdrawn under the conditions stated in the letter and that that does not mean that HLRC has any authority or requirements to enforce. He also said that they gave a lot of weight to Mr. Jimenez's comments regarding what the conditions would be for residents in the county who are subject to County conditions. Mr. Robinson outlined many of the steps, which still need to be taken on the project following City procedures and notifications. Mr. Robinson stated that they are not expecting HLRC to exert any authority or have any responsibility.

- (h) Ms. Karana Hattersley-Drayton, City of Fresno Department of Housing, 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3076, Fresno, CA 93721 requested that if the Commission recommends or adopt a resolution to the Board that it be very clear on the boundaries and what it is designating and what the significance is.
- (i) Chairman McFarland asked Bernard Jimenez from Fresno County Public Works and Planning if he had any comments. None were made.
- (j) Commissioner Laval stated that she did not see that the conditions in the letter are relevant to the purview of the Commission. She wondered if Herndon-Doolittle would reinvoke their opposition.
- (k) Chairman McFarland said that he understands that though the comments are listed, they do not affect the Commission's purview and that unanimous property owner consent is not required. Chairman McFarland than returned to the matter of the map and stated that the map that is attached to the application would be used. Chairman McFarland also received a confirmation of this from Mr. Bill Darnell.
- (l) Commissioner Kus questioned whether lots 107 and 108 are in the City now and outside our purview. The runway is in the City. Commissioner McFarland said that we are in the position we are with any other cities in the County where we have properties which are on our list and which have historic significance. Commissioner Kus asked if it was the desire of the City Historic Commission that we not include lots 107 and 108. Karana Hattersley-Drayton stated that the City and County have very different criteria for historic property. Karana discussed the difference between significance and integrity and the importance of definitions in a future County Historic Ordinance.
- (m) Commissioner Olson made a motion to designate the site (as laid out in the map included with the application) for placement on the HLRC list and to forward to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Papas seconded the motion. It will be recommended to the Board of Supervisors along with the application map. The motion was approved. There were no dissenting votes. There was discussion on when it would go to the Board. The item could be presented in October, November or later.
- (n) Mr. Bill Darnell thanked the Commission for all of its hard work and Mr. McFarland thanked the developers for recognizing this important site.

ii) Applications Under Review

- (1) The application to place the Hall of Records on the National Register of Historic Places was approved by Board of Supervisors on 4/25/06 and sent to State Historic Preservation Officer on May 13, 2006. The application was returned to the County, revised and resent to the State Historic Preservation Officer. It was than returned to the County a third time; William Burke of the State Historic Preservation Office, outlined

additional changes in a long letter. This letter was discussed with the Commission at the May meeting, and subsequently, Karen Bosch Cobb wrote a letter to the State Historic Preservation Officer. Karen Bosch Cobb and Bill Secret both received calls from the State Historic Preservation Officer. Karen Bosch Cobb received a call that a possible mistake had been made, as the Hall of Records should be on the National Register. The State Officer stated they were very anxious to work with us and the only reason for caution is due to the evaluation by the Keeper of Record in Washington D.C. who expects very detailed work or it will be returned. The person who spoke with Karen is the Supervisor of William Burke. William Burke called and spoke with Bill Secret Jr. Bill Secret Jr. will make an appointment to meet with William Burke regarding problems with this application. Commissioner Raven spoke about having William Burke's supervisor there at the meeting. Bill spoke about the importance of making a visit in person to review and discuss the application. Karen explained that the Library is working on its Centennial plans and that will take precedence over this project. There was further discussion about how technical applications have become. Commissioner Taylor gave an example of the technical and other questions being asked, some of which focus on the relevance of Central Valley projects.

- iii) Suggestions for other applications
 - (1) Commissioner Enloe spoke of The Scottish Rite Building Masonic Hall (old Methodist Church) in Selma celebrating 100 years. She also spoke about the Clovis Masonic Building in Clovis. A discussion ensued about the worthiness of these buildings.
 - (2) Commissioner Barile who has spoken with Edison also mentioned the Big Creek area and the Southern California Edison Company, and they are very positive about working with the Commission. Randy offered to discuss further with Edison manager at Big Creek
 - (3) Commissioner Laval inquired about the Fig Garden area. Karen and Commissioner McFarland reported that they met with Supervisor Anderson, and she had heard about designating an Historic District in Fig Garden.
- b) Centennial Farms-Commissioner Berkey asked about a systematic approach to designate farms due to our large agriculture area. A contact to Ryan Jacobsen of Farm Bureau would be useful. Commissioners Shantz and Enloe mentioned a ranch and will followup.. Commissioner Berkey had questions about the Victor Davis Hanson's Ranch. This ranch is on the list. Commissioner Kus suggested posters, announcements or flyers in rural libraries advertising the Centennial Farms designation.
- c) Centennial Businesses-Commercial Transfer Inc. Application was attached. Commissioner Pappas presented the application and commented on the importance of transportation and transformation of this business. Commissioner Kus motioned and Commissioner Kytile seconded that it be placed on the

Centennial Business List. The motion was approved and will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

- d) Centennial Communities- Review each year in January.
 - e) Courthouse Park Grounds Markers and Memorials and Sculptures - consideration is being given to restoring the Cupola of the old Court House and moving it to Courthouse Park. There is concern by the Commission as to where the Cupola will be placed. Commissioner McFarland and Karen Bosch Cobb spoke of their conversation with Supervisor Anderson on this project, which includes evaluation of the cupola and placement. Commissioner Laval discussed the significance of the Cupola to Courthouse Park and would also like to have some input. This will be a standing agenda item. A memo will be written to Supervisor Anderson offering the assistance of the Commission.
 - f) Discussion of threatened buildings in the City of Fresno-Commissioner Taylor discussed the Mayflower Hotel and gave an update on the recently restored Hotel Virginia.
 - g) Discussion of threatened buildings in The County of Fresno-None
- 9) Reports and Administrative Action Items
- a) Chairman's Report: August 22, 2009 Eastern Sierra Trip: Chairman McFarland gave a recount of the day's events. It was a great trip, with many more things that could have been seen in the area. Commissioner Hunter reported that she painted a picture of the Pine Logging Camp. Commissioner McFarland received a request for a SJ&E repeat tour.
 - b) Vice-Chairman's Report: Update on Del Rey Historic Properties: Commissioner Taylor gave additional information on the history of Del Rey. He spoke with the oldest living person in Del Rey. Commissioner Taylor also spoke of his latest trip. *Richard*
Del Rey - oldest 77
 - c) Secretary's Report
 - i) Attendance Report: enclosed in agenda packet
 - ii) Vacancies: there are two Vacancies-1 Board of Supervisors appointed vacancy in District 2 and 1 Commission appointed vacancy. Applications from Janice Stevens and Lou Catallo were submitted to the Clerk to the Board
 - iii) Terms of office: Steve Barile submitted a form asking for a Waiver of Absences. On August 25, 2009 the Board approved the waiver request.
 - iv) Updated roster
 - v) A Cell phone tower in Sunnyside was discussed. A solution to the problem was to attach a cell tower to Sunnyside School.
 - vi) Since the last meeting, there were questions about a home on Van Ness, which was being torn down. The County does not have an historic ordinance, which might have been invoked.
 - vii) Brochures of The Courthouse walking tour are all gone. Karen Bosch Cobb asked for assistance in finding funds for printing. Commissioner Raven requested some estimates. Karen Bosch Cobb would like to print about 2,000 additional brochures. Fresno County did the original printing of the Brochure.

Commissioner Laval thought of the Visitors Bureau and that we could offer them acknowledgments.

10) Announcements

- a) Commissioner Laval reported on the Fresno County Fair monument of the Pinedale Chinese Interment Camp. It will be at the Chance Ave. Gate.
- b) Commissioner Bos reported that her new heart valves are both working.
- c) Commissioner Raven will be visiting Washington D.C. and will be reporting to the Fresno Magazine
- d) Commissioner Hunter will have an exhibit at the Fresno Fair and a new book coming out on California Missions.
- e) Commissioner Enloe expressed appreciation for the wonderful field trip to the Sierras, as did Commissioner Barile.
- f) Commissioner Kytly is working with his wife on a history of South Carolina.
- g) Commissioner Berkey who is relatively new to the area, reported on a camping trip to Yosemite with his daughters.
- h) Bill Secrest spoke of writing the Centennial Book for the Fresno County Library. It will be about 128 pages. It will feature every existing branch and some closed branches in Fresno County. He hopes to have it available at the Dinner in the Library.
- i) Karen Bosch Cobb gave an explanation about the Dinner in the Library. Commissioner Raven request more information. The tickets are sold through the Friends of the Library
- j) There was a request for Map and directions for the November meeting.
- k) Commissioner Laval inquired about an end of the year party.
- l) Commissioner Kytly inquired about the next meeting at Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club

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November 19, 2009	4 p.m.	Woodward Park Library
	Future Meetings-2010	
January 21, 2010	4 p.m.	Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club with tour
March 18, 2010	4 p.m.	
May 20, 2010	4 p.m.	
September 16, 2010	4 p.m.	
November 18, 2010	4 p.m.	

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