

Historical Landmarks & Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held at the Sunnyside Library on January 12, 2006.

Members present: Virgil Ahlberg, Steve Barile, Aileen Bos, Judy Ganulin, Randy McFarland, Bud Olson, Cathy Rehart, Penny Raven, Roger Taylor
Members excused: James Kus, Don Shantz
Members absent: Prudence Zalewski
Others present: Karen Bosch Cobb, Elida Mendoza, Jill Moffat, Nancy Enloe, Karen Miller, Ray Porter

AGENDA ITEMS

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy McFarland.
2. Chairman McFarland welcomed everyone.
3. Adoption of Agenda - The Cedar Crest Resort discussion was moved to follow "Comments from the Public." Under item 8 d) Update on Research: The Fresno County Peace Officer's Memorial research was moved and placed under the "Completed" items. This research was done by Commissioner Raven. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the revised agenda.
4. Approval of Minutes: It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes with the following change: "Under item 8 d) Update on Research: The Fresno County Peace Officer's Memorial research was moved and placed under the "Completed" items. This research was done by Commissioner Raven.
5. Comments from the Public - None.
6. Sesquicentennial Report - Jill Moffat, Chairman, Fresno County Sesquicentennial Committee and Director of the Fresno City and County Historical Society reported.

Ms. Moffat gave an enthusiastic report of the plans underway for the Sesquicentennial. She distributed a summary and said that anyone who wants to be on the committee is welcome. One of the many groups they hope to reach is the new people to the community. KMJ Radio is airing weekly Sesquicentennial stories.

The official kickoff will be on April 19. Mr. Bill Coate is arranging a wagon train trip that will begin in Firebaugh and move through the county. Children from throughout the county will be joining him, and plans are for the wagon train, a train and boat to converge on April 19. Church bells will ring for 150 seconds. There will be a lecture series and some panel discussions. The academic activities for the Sesquicentennial are being coordinated with CSUF. There will be speakers and panel discussions. In June there will be a concert at Kearney Park which Ms. Moffat described as a mid century celebration. A 60 minute film on the history of Fresno County is being created. There is also a committee working on a photo book. Commissioner Rehart and Mr. Bill Secrest, Jr., are members of that committee. Ms. Moffat is also working on organizing a parade. Commissioner Rehart suggested having a band concert in Courthouse Park; band concerts in the park were very popular in the 1800's. Ms. Moffat said it may be possible to have a concert in conjunction with the parade. There has been discussion of having the parade end at Grizzly Stadium with events catered to kids.

The planning committee considered having something at Millerton, "the birthplace of the county," but there is nothing on the schedule at this time, although they are open to suggestions.

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They do not think attendance at a Millerton event would be good. The Historical Society is collaborating on a Millerton exhibit with the San Joaquin River Parkway. Chairman McFarland added that the Editorial Board of the Historical Society will be focusing upcoming articles on the early part of the County. Chairman McFarland also said the Farm Bureau and the water interest groups are very interested in lending their assistance to the Sesquicentennial .

Commissioner Rehart suggested a train, ferry, and stagecoach convergence, rather than a boat. Discussion about whether a train should be included was discussed, since adding a train was not considered historically accurate. Commissioner Barile commented about the rich literary community in the area and wondered how it is being represented. Ms. Moffat asked him to come up with an idea and get it to her. Chairman McFarland asked about involvement from areas of the county other than the city of Fresno. Ms. Moffat is working on this by going out to personally meet with community leaders throughout the county. The Ad Federation is working on publicity that will be targeted to the general public which is planned for release in March.

The Fresno County Fairgrounds was chosen as the location for the celebration because of its connection to the entire county, not just the city of Fresno. Commissioner Bos reminded everyone that the Fairgrounds was the site of the internment in the 1940's.

7. Records - None.
8. Landmarks

a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County

- 1) Properties recommended to Board of Supervisors since the last meeting
 - a) Vincent Building - Approved by Board of Supervisors - 12/13/05
- 2) Pending Applications – Action Needed
 - a) Cedar Crest Resort - Huntington Lake

Chairman McFarland provided some background information concerning this application submitted by Mr. Barry Fitt. After lengthy discussion at the November meeting, the application was referred back to Mr. Fitt for additional information.

Mrs. Bosch Cobb introduced Ms. Karen Miller, Forest Heritage Program Manager for the Sierra National Forest, which includes history and archaeology. She also introduced Mr. Ray Porter, District Ranger for the High Sierra Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest at Prather. They were asked to comment on this application because the Cedar Crest Resort is on the High Sierra Ranger District. It is the Commission's policy to obtain property owner concurrence before applications are approved to move forward.

Mr. Porter said the resort operates under a special use permit. The Forest Service policy is that permittees own the facilities, but not the land. Buildings are permitted as long as permittees operate within the terms of the special use permit. If a permit is terminated the buildings must be removed. This is a way for the Forest Service to remove facilities that are out of compliance with the Forest Service.

Mr. Fitt's permit was terminated for non compliance. When a permit is

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terminated the facilities must be removed by a given deadline. Mr. Porter said that historically permittees find someone to carry on to keep them in compliance. He added that in the case of Mr. Fitt, if compliance issues are not resolved, at some point the buildings must be removed. It was Mr. Porter's opinion that Mr. Fitt was trying to circumvent this process by coming to the Commission. The Forest Service has criteria for determining the historical significance of structures, but they have not conducted an eligibility determination to see if the resort is eligible for the Federal Register. The Forest Service is neutral about the Commission's decision, and they have determined that they are not going to terminate Mr. Fitt's permit at this time; there is no urgent threat, but he must comply with the terms of the permit. Cedar Crest's permit was suspended last summer, but they continued to operate.

Mr. Porter said the compliance matter centered on administrative issues. At this time, the permit has not been revoked, but there are items that need to be taken care of for them to be in compliance. Forest Service policy is that once a letter is forwarded by the Forest Service legal staff, the permittee has 30 days to respond.

The Cedar Crest Resort discussion led to discussion about the Commission's interest in other sites on forest land, such as the Southern California Edison and Dinkey Creek facilities that may be good candidates for the County's List of Historic Places. The Forest Service would not have a problem with this concept if it is done in such a way that it would not have a major impact on the workforce. Commissioner Barile suggested perhaps the Commission and the Forest Service can begin working on identifying eligible mountain properties.

Ms. Miller stated that the Forest Service recognizes that there is historic value in some of the recreational developments on forest land. Because of this, they have specifically identified the Huntington Lake Basin as historically important, and they are working on establishing a National Historic Register District. They have brought in architectural historians, and at this time they have evaluated enough properties to recognize that they need to look at the entire basin. Ms. Miller suggested it would be complimentary to do a dual application with the Historic Landmarks Commission and Chairman McFarland concurred.

Commissioner Bos said there is a lot of family history in the area and asked if the Forest Service is researching personal information to the complete the applications. She stated that there is a lot of family history in the area. At this time they are only focusing on the architectural integrity of the buildings, and for this evaluation process they do not include family history. Ms. Miller said this information was added where it made a difference for eligibility. Commissioner Rehart also considers including personal history to be very important.

During their research, Ms. Miller said they found information that John Steinbeck had visited the area, but they would not demonstrate that he wrote there. There was some discussion about other famous people who have gathered in the area.

Ms. Miller said they have to be sensitive about not having a negative impact on privately owned buildings; some people are very sensitive about becoming a historical mecca.

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Ms. Miller offered to put the Commission on the Forest Service outreach list to keep them informed, and she commented that the Huntington area permittees are the ones motivating this process.

Discussion returned to the subject of the application. Chairman McFarland said if Mr. Fitt is the owner of the buildings, then it would be appropriate for him to sign the application. Mrs. Bosch Cobb will send a letter to Mr. Fitt to remind him that the Commission is interested in having a more complete application.

Mrs. Enloe asked about the status of the Big Creek project. The Big Creek project is in the relicensing phase. The Forest Service does not have anything going on there. Mrs. Enloe was given information about who to contact for more details.

- 3) Applications Under Review
 - a) Recommendation to place the Hall of Records on the County's List of Historic Places - Agenda date pending

Ms. Bosch Cobb and Commissioner Taylor are working on finalizing the application and the agenda item.

- 4) Suggestions for other applications
 - a) Del Rey Properties

Commissioner Taylor toured Del Rey to look at the buildings on this list, and in the process he found two or three other properties of interest. One of the properties not on the list was the H. H. Welsh home which was built in 1912 and is listed on the County's List of Historic Places. This home was highlighted in a September 2005 Fresno Magazine article written by Commissioner Raven. Commissioner Taylor is to come back to the next meeting with photos and addresses. Chairman McFarland encouraged him to begin the process of developing the applications.

- 1) Old church one block off Main Street
- 2) Old Bank of America building
- 3) Old church at Academy & Jefferson
- 4) Old Rosedale School

- b) Inventory
 - 1) Review Cities & Discuss sites which should be added

Commissioners are interested in scheduling a field trip to areas of interest during a month when there is no meeting. Chairman McFarland and Mrs. Bosch Cobb will discuss this further.

- b) Centennial Farms - No new information to report as of January 12, 2006.
 - 1) Farms currently on the List of Centennial Farms
 - a) Harlan Ranch, Riverdale (Approved by Board of Supervisors 2/15/94)

- b) Schultz Ranch, Inc., Burrel (Approved by Board of Supervisors 2/15/94)
 - c) Charles B. Drake Ranch, Squaw Valley (Approved by Board of Supervisors 5/24/94)
 - d) Richard W. and Barbara J. Milton Farm, Reedley (Approved by Board of Supervisors 1/10/95)
 - e) Missouri Hill Ranch, Fresno. (Approved by Board of Supervisors 11/14/95)
 - f) Reese Davis Ranch, Selma (Approved by Board of Supervisors 3/5/96)
 - g) Levis Ranch, Selma (Approved by Board of Supervisors 5/17/96)
 - h) John G. Goode Ranch (Approved by Board of Supervisors 1/13/98)
 - i) Kreyenhagen Ranch, Coalinga (Approved by Board of Supervisors 6/29/99)
- c) Centennial Businesses
- 1) Businesses currently on the List of Centennial Businesses
 - a) Fresno Ag (Approved by Board of Supervisors 7/30/02)
 - b) Baker, Manock & Jensen (Approved by Board of Supervisors 3/2/04)
 - c) Shepard, Shepard & Janian, Attorneys (Approved by Board of Supervisors 7/27/04)
 - 2) 100 year old businesses that submitted an application for consideration at today's meeting
 - a) None.
 - 3) Other 100 year old businesses that received an application and have not yet responded –Chairman McFarland will check with the newspapers listed under item f). It has been at least six months since they received information from Mrs. Bosch Cobb about the Centennial Businesses program.
 - a) The Business Journal
 - b) Pacific Tent & Awning
 - c) Maxwell Studio
 - d) Simonian Farms (Clovis & Jensen, Fresno)
 - e) Electric Lab
 - f) Selma, Reedley, Sanger & Kingsburg papers
 - g) Gottschalks
- d) Courthouse Park grounds markers/memorials and sculptures
- a) Update on Brochure of Courthouse Park
Mrs. Bosch Cobb and Commissioner Rehart will work on drafting the brochure.
 - b) Update on Research as of 1/12/06

Completed
 - Brotherhood memorial to Dowling, Greenberg, Malloch – 1968 (Margaret Murphy)
 - Fresno Memorial Plaque on history of County- 1954 (Bob Wash)

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- Flagpole (north) Homer Blevins chap, Disabled American Veterans – 1979 (Aileen Bos)
- William Saroyan monument – 1988 (Ben Amirkhanian)
- Statue of Dr. Chester Rowell – 1914 (Prudence Zalewski)
- Virginianna Oak – Roger Taylor
- Anna Woodward Memorial Fountain – Judy Ganulin
- Flagpole (south) Dedicated to Haig Ohannesian – 1966 – Aileen Bos
- David of Sassoun, Armenian Folk Hero - 1970 – Mabelle Selland
- Bicentennial Oak - Penny Raven
- Fresno County Peach Officer's Memorial – 1999 – Penny Raven

Pending

- E. Clampus Vitus (original courthouse) – Randy McFarland
- Replica of Toltec sculpture given to Fresno County by the Mexican state of Hidalgo – 1980 – James Kus
- Viva Liberation – 1949 - Steve Barile
- Hmong Memorial - Robert Anderson, City of Fresno
- Checker Board - Roger Taylor

Unassigned

- The Earth is a Sculpture (working fountain)
- Statue Honoring Ex Braceros 1942 – 1964 – 2002
- Statue of Benito Juarez – 2003
- Historical Society Monument
- Martin Luther King Bust
- Hmong Memorial to be installed in 2005

- e) Discussion of threatened buildings in downtown Fresno
- f) Discussion of threatened buildings in the County of Fresno

The Oliver House in Centerville was discussed, although it was not considered to be threatened by the freeway.

9. Reports and Administrative Action Items

- a) Chairman's Report – The Selma Enterprise recently published a front page story on the Vincent Building. Chairman McFarland suggested placing this building on the list of stops for the field trip.
- b) Vice-Chairman's Report – No report.
- c) Secretary's Report
 - 1) Status of Vacancies:
 - a) 5 Commission appointed vacancies (Murphy, Selland, Herrera, Helm, Wash). Mrs. Nancy Enloe's appointment is still pending.
 - b) Commissioner Rehart was appointed to fill the District 3 vacancy.

The Fresno Historical Society is interested in nominating Sharon Hiigel as their representative on the Commission. An application will be forwarded to her with information that the Commission no longer designates membership categories, and that she is encouraged to submit the application.

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Mrs. Bosch Cobb announced that a group of county departments is exploring the development of a county archives facility. The state archivist is coming on January 25, at noon. Chairman McFarland was invited to attend.

Commissioner Bos was interested in knowing where the County stores duplicate records. Mrs. Bosch Cobb said this is one of the areas the County is working on and records are not centrally located. Budget issues have kept archival storage issues from being a high priority but things are improving.

- 2) State Form and our supplemental form as new application form.- Defer until joint meeting with City
- 3) Second Revision of Bylaws
Commissioners discussed the changes in the bylaws. References to membership categories will be eliminated. On page 3, item C change ". . .may be required in the carrying out of a historic . . ."

It was moved by Commissioner Barile, seconded by Commissioner Rehart, and carried, to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to readopt the bylaws as revised.

- 4) Joint Meeting – Mrs. Bosch Cobb is working with Ms. Karana Drayton to set a date for the meeting. The McCardle Room was suggested as the meeting location. Previously there was some discussion about beginning the meeting at 4 p.m. with the Commission and then to move to the joint meeting with a special agenda at 4:30. Mrs. Bosch Cobb said a later time may be preferred by the City Commission; maybe 5:30.
- 5) Secretary Review of Routine Document

Mrs. Bosch Cobb brought Fresno County Management Directive 430 to the attention of the Commission. Section 434.43 of that directive reads as follows:

"The Commission may at its discretion delegate to its Secretary (County Librarian) the responsibility for review of certain classes of records and for making recommendation as to their disposition."

Commissioners agreed to allow Mrs. Bosch Cobb to decide which documents do not need to be reviewed by the Commission. They will receive a list of documents she reviews without the Commission's input. Commissioners agreed that there are many routine times brought before them that they do not need to review, and they can choose to return to current practice of reviewing all documents at any time.

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- d) Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Rehart commented about the prolog for the Sesquicentennial book written by her and Bill Secrest. She said it would provide a chronology and timeline.

Mrs. Enloe said she was delighted to be at the meeting and was looking forward to her official appointment on the Commission.

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10. Announcements

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, 2006. Mrs. Bosch Cobb will confirm if it will be a joint meeting with the City Commission.

Commissioner Raven said she will contact Gottschalk's about submitting a Centennial Business application.

11. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.