



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

---

7:00 p.m., Monday, February 25, 2008  
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers  
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair H. GIRDLEY called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Chair H. GIRDLEY, Commissioners BAKER, DREWES, K. GIRDLEY, HAMBLIN, LONEY and MARFATIA.

Staff: Staff Liaison DAHL and Assistant Planner LACEY.

### MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DREWES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN, to approve the January 28, 2008 meeting minutes as amended. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER K. GIRDLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN, to nominate Commissioner BAKER as Chair and Commissioner MARFATIA as Vice-Chair of the Commission. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH COMMISSIONERS BAKER AND MARFATIA ABSTAINING.

### DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS

1. 735 Campbell Avenue

Assistant Planner LACEY presented the staff report and made himself available to answer questions.

The Commission discussed the project and expressed general support for the proposed window specifications.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER H. GIRDLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LONEY, to approve the project specifications as provided. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. 51 South San Antonio Road (the Smith House Grounds)

Commissioner K. GIRDLEY recused himself from discussing and voting on the item.

The applicant presented the proposal of adding a small shed to the rear of the tank house that was located at the Civic Center on the Smith House grounds. He noted that the shed was needed to store chairs so that the tank house could be used for historical displays.

Staff Liaison DAHL recommended removing the existing fence behind the proposed shed to avoid a structural conflict with the rear wall of the shed.

The Commission expressed general support for the proposed shed but wanted to make sure that the structure was properly screened and that the siding was in-keeping with the existing tank house.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DREWES, to approve the proposed shed addition to the tank house with the conditions that it be a fully enclosed structure and that the siding was in-keeping with the existing siding on the tank house. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. 300 Manresa Way (the Jesuit Retreat Center)

Assistant Planner LACEY presented the staff report and made himself available to answer questions.

The applicant noted that the project was needed to make improvements required by ADA, that the area would be landscaping as part of the project and that the windows would match the color of the existing windows in the surrounding buildings but that the proposed style would be more historically in-keeping than the existing windows.

The Commission noted that the proposal was a good design and historically in-keeping with the original structures, however it may not be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior standards in that it was creating false history. It was also noted that this was a large site with many buildings and this was a very small project in relation to the overall site. The Commission encouraged the applicant replace modern windows and other elements that had been added over the years whenever possible and to make sure that all new additions/remodels were consistent with the original historic character of the site. One commissioner voiced opposition to the project because the proposed windows on the tower created a false sense of historicism.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER H. GIRDLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DREWES, to approve the proposed project as submitted with the conditions that the window treatments match the existing conditions and that all future improvements follow the same theme that reflects the original historic character of the site. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1 WITH VICE-CHAIR MARFATIA OPPOSED.

4. Historic Resources Inventory Update

The Commission discussed the need to finalize the windshield survey of potential historic properties for the City's historic consultant to evaluate for inclusion in the Historic Resources Inventory.

MOTION BY CHAIR BAKER, SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR MARFATIA, to hold a special Commission study session for the purpose of evaluating the list of potential historic properties. The final list of potential historic properties would be reviewed by the Commission at the next regular meeting. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Historic Preservation Awards

The Commission discussed establishing an annual historic preservation award. The discussion included who should be allowed to nominate a person or project, what is the criterion for nominating a person or project, and should the award be expanded to cover other aspects of history in Los Altos (i.e. exhibits).

Chair BAKER appointed Commissioners DREWES and H. GIRDLEY to sub-committee for the purpose of researching and establishing draft parameters for a historic preservation award that would be considered by the Commission at a future date.

6. Certified Local Government Grants

The Commission discussed the current scoring system that the City uses and noted that it is outdated and rarely used by other jurisdictions. Other systems, such as a context based system, are considered more effective ways for jurisdictions to evaluate and rank historic resources. It was noted that the State Office of Historic Preservation offers grants to jurisdictions that are looking to update their historic resources inventory and/or historic preservation ordinances.

Chair BAKER appointed Vice-Chair MARFATIA and H. GIRDLEY to sub-committee for the purpose of researching and drafting a grant proposal for the purpose of updating the City's Historic Resources Inventory.

### COMMISSION REPORTS

7. Report from Past Chair

Heard a report from Past Chair H. Girdley.

The Commission thanked Past Chair H. Girdley for her service to the Commission.

8. City Council-Historical Commission Joint Study Session

Commissioners discussed upcoming joint study session with the City Council.

9. Historical Essay Contest and Ice Cream Social

Commissioner LONEY reported that the essay contest submittal deadline would be March 7, 2008 and judging of the essay contest would be on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 10:00 am.

### ADJOURNMENT

Chair BAKER adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

---

Zachary Dahl, AICP  
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission