



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., Monday, September 24, 2007
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 DREWES, K. GIRDLEY, MARFATIA
HAMBLIN, and BAKER.

Staff: Associate Planner DAHL and Assistant Planner LACEY.

MINUTES:

Commissioner K. GIRDLEY moved approval of the August 27, 2007 Minutes, seconded by Commissioner BAKER, motion passed 5-0 (Commissioner HAMBLIN abstained).

PUBLIC COMMENT: none.

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS:

397 Main Street New Signs and Awnings – The Commission considered L'Acquolina owner Fernando Urroz's request to add new signs and awnings to an existing historic landmark structure. The Commissioners expressed general support for the proposed signs.

Commissioner HAMBLIN moved to approve the proposed signs, which was seconded by Commissioner K. GIRDLEY.

Motion passed 6-0

Commissioners HAMBLIN and K. GIRDLEY expressed concern about a disconnect between the proposed arched awnings and arched windows and supported lowering the awnings to align with the window arch. Staff noted that Code does not allow for lower awnings to project over public sidewalks. The Commission expressed a general concern about the architectural integrity of approving the proposed awnings along First Street.

Commissioner K. GIRDLEY moved to allow applicant to meet with the subcommittee to discuss multiple awning design options for the structure, which failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner MARFATIA moved to deny all three awnings, which failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner HAMBLIN moved to approve the awning on Main Street and omit the two awnings on First Street, which was seconded by Commissioner DREWES.

Motion passed 6-0

Commissioner BAKER moved to allow a redesign of the awnings on First Street to be reviewed and approved the Subcommittee, which was seconded by Commissioner MARFATIA.
Motion passed 6-0

735 Campbell Avenue Addition and Remodel – The Commission considered architect Daryl Harris' request to remodel and add 923 square feet to the second story of a historically significant residence. Mr. Harris noted that the goal of the addition/remodel was to install windows and architectural details that were consistent with the original architectural style. Commissioner K. GIRDLEY commented that high quality window treatments were important and expressed support for the project, noting that it was a big improvement. Commissioner MARFATIA expressed dislike for the round windows, noting that they were inconsistent with the design. Chair H. GIRDLEY noted that the first and second story windows did not match and that the window style should be consistent. Commissioner HAMBLIN noted that a specific brand of windows should be identified to ensure quality.

Commissioner K. GIRDLEY moved to approve the project with a condition that foam trim may be allowed, a condition to match the new windows with the existing windows as closely as possible and for the applicant to bring in a sample window for viewing by the Commission, which was seconded by Commissioner HAMBLIN.
Motion passed 6-0

Los Altos History Museum Essay Contest and Adult History Classes – The Commission considered the History Museum's request to continue participation in the annual essay contest and participate in a new adult history class. The Commission discussed the essay contest and put forward a request for volunteers to help judge the essays. Chair H. GIRDLEY volunteered to help with the essay contest. Commissioner DREWES volunteered to further evaluate the Commission's involvement in an adult history class.

Commissioner K. GIRDLEY moved to table the item, which was seconded by Commissioner HAMBLIN.
Motion passed 6-0

Historic Resources Inventory – Commissioner K. GIRDLEY reported that the windshield survey was complete. It was noted that staff would research the existing Assessor records for original date of construction and report back to the Commission in the next two months. Associate Planner Dahl noted that there was a correction to the existing Historic Resources Inventory (HRI). The residence at 1365 Miravalle Avenue was incorrectly listed as an historic structure. The subject historic structure was actually located at 1365 Grant Road. There was also an HRI listing for an historic structure at 1377 Grant Road, however that address no longer exists. The Commission noted that this issue would be looked into and added to the future HRI update.

Historic Preservation Awards – The Commission discussed the idea of creating an historic preservation award that could be awarded to projects or property owners who did exceptional work in regards to historic preservation. Commissioner HAMBLIN noted that the award should be awarded as appropriate rather than on an annual basis.

Commissioner BAKER moved to approve a Historic Preservation Award subject to the following criteria: the award would be discussed at each January meeting of the Commission, a maximum of one award could be issued each year, and the award would require a nomination by a Commissioner in order to be considered, which was seconded by Commissioner K. GIRDLEY.

Motion passed 6-0

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Community Picnic Report – Commissioner K. GIRDLEY reported that approximately 1,000 people attended the picnic and that the History Hunt was successful, however, to improve the History Hunt, fewer properties should be included. Commissioner MARFATIA reported that the pins and prized were popular with the participants.

San Antonio Club and 20 First Street Historic Sign Report – Associate Planner Dahl presented the plans for the new signs that would be constructed and installed at the San Antonio Club and reported that the placard at 20 First Street is anticipated to be installed within the next month.

DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

397 Main Street – Item to be added to October agenda to discuss second story windows along First Street.

Los Altos History Museum Essay Contest – Item to be added to October agenda for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair H. GIRDLEY adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Zachary Dahl, AICP
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission