



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., February 25, 2002
City Council Meeting Chambers
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair McChesney, Vice-Chair Foerster; Commissioners Carpenter, Hull, Humphries, McDonald, and Sandoval.

MINUTES

Corrections: The discussion at the last meeting about possibly having Council adopt a resolution commending owners of historic buildings was a general discussion; in relation to the item about the Historic Resources Inventory meeting for the downtown building owners—4 building owners responded to the date as not being good for them; none attended the scheduled meeting on January 15—corrections will be entered. Approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2001 meeting, was moved by Commissioner Hull, seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the audience may bring to the attention of the commission any item that is not on the agenda. Speakers are given up to three (3) minutes. State law prohibits the Commission from acting on items that do not appear on the agenda.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Chairperson's report: The commission discussed their progress on collecting the historic preservation ordinances from the various towns and cities. The sub-committee that will review the ordinances and compare them with Los Altos will include Commissioners Hull, Sandoval, and Foerster. The meeting with the sub-committee of the Planning Commission will take place on Thursday, February 28, at 7 pm at the museum. Members attending will include Kate Disney and Phoebe Bressack of the Planning Commission and Randall Hull and Gillian Humphries of the Historical Commission.

Commissioner Reports:

1. Vice-Chair Foerster reminded the commission that jurying of the essays would take place on March 14. Foerster has been representing the commission on the City's General Plan review committee. The Community Development and Planning Departments had requested that the Historical Commission submit their observations and recommendations by March 20, if possible. The sub-committee of Foerster, Sandoval and Hull were empowered to report for the Commission and the report will be in the March packet for the remaining commissioners. Foerster and Sandoval are reviewing the material gathered from the City Clerk on the process used for landmark designation for the current six landmarks.
2. Due to no attendance for the Downtown meeting no further plans have been made to date on educating the community about the advantages of the HRI.
3. Commissioner Humphries suggested that a library display of books on historic preservation and resources for homeowners with historic homes would be a project the library might be interested in. The commissioners will e-mail Humphries their suggestions of books, periodicals and resources for historic preservation.
4. Commissioner Carpenter updated the group on the City's plans for the Barbecue on August 25, currently scheduled for 11 am – 3 pm; some discussion about running the barbecue from noon to 4 pm ensued. Carpenter will carry that discussion to the City planning committee. Carpenter is chairing the museum's exhibit related to the anniversary and has assembled a great committee. The exhibit will be titled something like "Los Altos: Celebrating 50 Years of Community" and will open on Thursday, August 22, 2003. The exhibit is likely to run until Sunday, January 9, 2004. Committee members have taken decades to research. The exhibit will be arranged by decade with significant community accomplishments featured. Commissioner McDonald is researching material for the museum's "Homes and Gardens of Los Altos: The Architectural Heritage Show" as well as researching the 1950's for the "50th" exhibit. McDonald is also presenting a column regularly in the Town Crier on the history of the community.
5. Commissioners Sandoval and Humphries presented a verbal report on the half-day workshop they attended in February. Commissioner Carpenter joined in on the discussion about the State Office of Historic Preservation's progress with the software developer for the HRI format software, which may be available eventually in an "Access" format.

HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT

The Historical Commission suggested to staff that a good time to acknowledge the Association's donation of the museum building to the City and community might be the Ice Cream Social for the Essay Contest. This event falls during National Historic Preservation Week so the date might be a good fit. Staff will mention this to the City and the Association's Board of Directors.

OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE:

The Commission noted that it is time for the election of new officers. This item will be on the agenda for next month. Chair McChesney and Vice-Chair Foerster were thanked by the Commission and the staff for their service this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Foerster moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. The Commission adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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