



DATE: February 22, 2016

AGENDA ITEM # 4

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Historical Commission
FROM: Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Commission Accomplishments

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the 2015-2016 Historical Commission Accomplishments

BACKGROUND

At the July 1, 2015 joint meeting between the City Council and the Historical Commission, the Commission established the following goals and work plans for 2015-2016:

1. Administer the Margaret Thompson Essay Contest.
2. Implement the Historic Plaque Program.
3. Administer the Historic Preservation Award.
4. Maintain the City's Certified Local Government Status by reviewing and approving the annual CLG report that is submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation, and seek historic education and training.
5. Foster Partnership with the Los Altos Museum by holding an annual joint meeting with the History Museum Board of Directors and pursuing opportunities to partner with the Museum on historic education and outreach
6. Update the Historic Commission Website with information on structures participating in the Historic Plaque program.
7. Support the evaluation of the Halsey house at the Historic Redwood Grove and provide a recommendation to the City Council.
8. Continue to maintain and improve the Historical Commission's community outreach and awareness by collaborating with the Los Altos History Museum and administering the annual Margaret Thompson Essay Contest.

9. Continue to foster a partnership with the History Museum in order to best utilize the Museum's resources for projects such as evaluating historic properties for their association with significant individuals and events.

DISCUSSION

Below is a list of the Commission's 2015-2016 accomplishments. This list includes all of the Commission's accomplishments between April 2015 and March 2016. Once the new commission is sat in March, the 2015-2016 goals and work plan will be set.

1. The Commission has held eight regularly scheduled meetings since April 2015.
2. The Commission administered the 31st annual Margaret Thompson Essay Contest. The essay topic was "Inventors and Risk-Takers Help Make Our Community a Better Place". Essays were submitted from students from six schools, including home schools, in the Los Altos area, with a trophy being awarded to the school with the most award winners. Award checks and certificates were distributed by the Mayor to the students at the ice-cream social sponsored by the Historical Commission on May 26, 2015.
3. The Commission implemented the Historic Plaque Program.
4. The Commission administered and the City Council awarded the Historical Preservation Award to Bob Grimm at the May 12, 2015 meeting.
5. The Commission reviewed and approved the 2014-2015 Certified Local Government Program Annual Report. Staff submitted the report to the State Office of Historic Preservation on February 3, 2016.
6. The Commission reviewed and accepted a Commission Calendar that identifies reoccurring events, dates and deadlines at the January 25, 2016 meeting.
7. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval for a railing detail on a Historic Landmark Property at 452 University Avenue at the January 26, 2015 meeting.
8. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval for a new façade and renovation of an existing commercial building (restaurant use) to a Historic Resource property at 301 Main Street at the January 26, 2015 meeting.
9. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval for minor exterior alterations to a Historic Landmark Property at 500 University Avenue at the January 26, 2015 meeting.
10. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval for the five-year Capital Improvement Program at the March 23, 2015 meeting.
11. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval for exterior alterations to a Historic Landmark property at 500 University Avenue at the June 22, 2015 meeting.

12. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval for alterations to accessory structures and site improvements to a Historic Resource property at 725 University Avenue at the July 27, 2015 meeting.
13. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval to designate the tank house at the Los Altos History Museum, 51 South San Antonio Road, a Historic Resource at the August 24, 2015 meeting.
14. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval of Concept 'A' of the Feasibility Study for the Adaptive Reuse or Demolition of the Halsey House, a Historic Landmark at 482 University Avenue at the October 26, 2015 meeting.
15. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval to demolish an existing detached garage, construct a new detached garage over 12 feet in height, alter the rear elevation of the main house, and install a new pool with a raised patio to a Historic Landmark at 452 University Avenue
16. The Commission reviewed and approved a Historic Alteration Permit for the demolition of an existing detached accessory structure, construction of a new detached garage, rear yard improvements, including new landscaping and new pool, alterations to the rear elevation and a new second-story balcony for a landmark property at 452 University Avenue at the August 25, 2014 meeting.
17. The Commission reviewed and recommended approval of exterior alterations and site improvement to a Historic Resource property at 1365 Grant Road at the November 23, 2015 meeting.