



DATE: April 25, 2016

AGENDA ITEM # 3

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Historical Commission
FROM: Sean K. Gallegos, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Historic Preservation Award

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider nominations for the 2016 Los Altos Historical Preservation Award

BACKGROUND

The Los Altos Historic Preservation Award was adopted by the City Council in May 2012 with the intent of recognizing individuals, groups, organizations, or projects that exemplify the spirit of historic preservation in the City of Los Altos. Nominees should demonstrate a dedication to historic preservation in the City of Los Altos within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education;
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation;
3. Public benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.); and/or
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

The purpose of the award is to encourage public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's past, and foster civic and neighborhood pride and sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of the City's historic resources.

DISCUSSION

Staff received two nominations for the Historic Preservation Award. A nomination was received for Val Carpenter, nominated by Rich Carpenter. A nomination was also received for Robin Chapman, nominated by Kathleen Richards and Roger Heyder.

The Commission should consider the written evidence and oral testimony from members of the public before voting on the award recipient. The award recipient or their designee will be recognized with a Mayor's Proclamation at the City Council Meeting on May 10, 2016.

Attachments:

- A. Val Carpenter, Nomination
- B. Robin Chapman, Nomination



City of Los Altos

APR 15 2016
CITY OF LOS ALTOS
PLANNING

2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating VAL CARPENTER for the 2016 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

VAL CARPENTER HAS DEMONSTRATED PIONEERING AND INNOVATIVE
EFFORTS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS ... PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTATION AND REFERENCE LETTERS.

If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.

Nominated by: Rach Carpenter Date: APRIL 7, 2016

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2016 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by **Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 5:00 pm.**

At the April 25, 2016 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2016 Historic Preservation Award. The 2016 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on May 10, 2016.

2016 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

Val Carpenter

Val Carpenter has demonstrated pioneering and innovative efforts in historic preservation in the City of Los Altos for the past 15 years, with particular emphasis on City-owned buildings and City committees. She served a 4-year term on the Los Altos Historical Commission, including a year as Chair, from 2001 to 2005. In that role she participated in the 2002 California Preservation Conference and became thoroughly familiar with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.

Val was an active member of the 50th anniversary of incorporation committee in 2002 and helped plan many events during the year-long celebration, including chairing the Los Altos History Museum exhibit "Los Altos: Celebrating 50 Years of Community". In 2003, as Chair of the Historical Commission, she led a series of public hearings on an emergency basis which protected the remaining row of Canary Island date palm trees planted over 100 years ago to line the drive to the historic home at 439 Rinconada Court. Also while serving on the Historical Commission, she supported acquiring the Neutra House and moving it to its present location on City land in the civic center.

While serving as the Mayor of Los Altos twice and on the Los Altos City Council for nine years, Val has been a steadfast and vocal proponent of preserving the local landmark heritage Blenheim apricot orchard on the civic center property. She also worked closely with City staff to renovate the local landmark San Antonio Club to expand its use for City programs and the community. As the Mayor of Los Altos in 2012, she co-chaired the 60th anniversary of incorporation committee that held many events in the year-long celebration – see www.LosAltosAt60.org - and produced the video "Los Altos: The Decades of Celebration" – see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLRr0H4Slis>.

Val founded and chaired the Friends of Historic Redwood Grove committee which successfully raised over \$25,000 to fund the City's evaluation of the City-owned local landmark Halsey House in Redwood Grove – see www.friendsofhistoricredwoodgrove.org. Most recently, she founded the Creekside Oaks community center committee to renovate and adaptively reuse the historic Costello barn on the property as a community center.

In addition to volunteering her time and talent, Val has made significant financial contributions to both the Neutra House and the Halsey House.

All of these activities have provided substantial public benefit to the Los Altos community and have had a major positive impact on the City of Los Altos, by showcasing its history and preserving its local landmarks and historic structures.

April 8, 2016

City of Los Altos
Historical Commission

Re: Historic Preservation Award

Dear Committee members:

I consider it a pleasure to offer my observations and recommendation of Mrs. Valorie Carpenter for the Historic Preservation Award. As well as Rotary Club committees, I served with her on the 60th Anniversary of Los Altos Committee.

In my professional experience of over 40 years, it has been possible for me to observe a substantial number of professionals, and Mrs. Carpenter is certainly one of the most outstanding members of that group.

Mrs. Carpenter served as co-chair of the committee and she was always punctual, polite, creative and highly-organized. I was impressed with how she approached her work which was in a creative framework and included attention to detail and follow-through often absent in the work of creative individuals. While she was the chair and could assign all of the tasks to committee members, she often volunteered to take on the responsibility for many of the most tedious and difficult ones.

In addition to possessing outstanding leadership skills, she is a sincere, considerate and refreshing person. She is an excellent listener, is extremely sensitive to her colleagues and has a good sense-of-humor. I enjoyed very much serving with her and would gladly do it again.

Mrs. Valorie Carpenter has dedicated much energy and time in maintaining and protecting the City of Los Altos historic resources. I highly recommend her for the Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Henning

Dr. Richard L. Henning
Professor/Dean/Vice-President, Emeritus
Founder & CEO Foothill College Celebrity Forum
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
650/949-7723
<http://www.celebrityforum.net>

April 9, 2016

To the Historical Commission:

I heartily endorse Val Carpenter for the Historic Preservation Award. Before she became well-known as a member of the Los Altos City Council, Val did great work for the City's Historical Commission, which I then headed. Her work with me and later as the Commission's head, was always marked with creative vigor. For example, she devised and saw to the details of a highly effective and imaginative display to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Incorporation of Los Altos. I was also much impressed by Val's careful attention to giving public credit where it was deserved and giving, person-to-person, full appreciation for good work done under her direction.

Don McDonald <doncmcd@sbcglobal.net>

April 10, 2016

To the Historical Commission

Nomination of Val Carpenter

Val Carpenter launched an effort to investigate the possibility of renovating the Costello Barn, an historic building in the Creekside Oaks community of Los Altos, for reuse as a Community Center for Creekside Oaks residents. She applied her knowledge of the unique requirements for work on an historic building. After assessing that the Costello Barn might be able to be renovated, she helped organize a committee and, together with the committee, wrote a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP has been distributed to 3 contractors including 2 who Val knew through her work on the Halsey House in Redwood Grove. Due to Val's work and expertise, the project will be able to continue through review of the responses to the RFP and a possible decision to renovate and reuse the Costello Barn.

Irene H. Hashfield
29 Deep Well Lane
Los Altos, CA 94022

April 12, 2016

To: City of Los Altos Historical Commission

Re: 2016 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

Dear Historical Commission:

Val Carpenter was an enormous asset to me, Chuck Lane, in trying to determine if the Costello barn, that is on the Los Altos Historic Inventory registry, might be able to be converted to a community center for the area where I live. Through her expertise and knowledge Val has been able to guide us thru the paperwork to see if is going to possible to complete our project.

Best!

Chuck Lane

To: City of Los Altos

Re: 2016 Historic Preservation Award Nomination

I am writing this letter in support of Val Carpenter's nomination to receive the 2016 Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

I have known Val for more than a decade in her roles on the Historical Commission, the Los Altos City Council and as founder and chair of the Friends of Historic Redwood Grove committee. Val has an unending abundance of energy and commitment to historic preservation. She did so on the Historical Commission; she did so while serving on City Council. She did so when she spearheaded FOHRG. Val was not only able to form a broad based committee but was also successful in a fundraising effort. Those funds were instrumental in enabling the City to undertake an evaluation of feasibility of adaptively reusing Halsey House. Without Val's leadership and strong organizational efforts the committee would not have been able to raise the funds and build the necessary support within the City for preserving the house.

There are many people who talk about historic preservation. Val gets things done.

Jonathan Baer



City of Los Altos

ATTACHMENT B

APR 19 2016

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
PLANNING

2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

I am nominating ROBIN CHARMAN for the 2016 Historic Preservation Award.

Describe the reasons why the nominee should receive the Historic Preservation Award and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- 1. Demonstration of pioneering or innovative efforts in historic preservation or education.
- 2. Conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
- 3. Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.).
- 4. Impact to the City of Los Altos.

Please see attached document

If applicable, submit copies of letters of commendation or any other supporting documentation (not required). Attach additional sheets as needed.

Nominated by: KATHLEEN RICHARDS & ROGER HEYDER Date: APRIL 18, 2016

In order to officially submit a nomination for the 2016 Historic Preservation Award, please submit one copy of all necessary documentation to the Historical Commission staff liaison Sean Gallegos. Materials can be submitted at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. All nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

At the April 25, 2016 meeting, the Historical Commission will hold a vote to determine the recipient of the 2016 Historic Preservation Award. The 2016 Historic Preservation Award winner is tentatively scheduled to be recognized by the City Council with a proclamation at their meeting on May 10, 2016.

2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION

NOMINEE: ROBIN CHAPMAN

The apricot orchard in the Civic Center is probably one of the largest, if not most seen, Historic Site in Los Altos. Robin Chapman has worked tirelessly, and often alone, to save the orchard.

Ms. Chapman wrote a book, California Apricots – The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley, to promote awareness of the loss of orchards in the Silicon Valley. In addition, she has written numerous articles in the Town Crier to increase public awareness of actions to demolish the Civic Center Orchard and the reasons for saving it. She has also spoken at City Council meetings to convince the City Council to preserve the orchard.

Through her research efforts at the Los Altos History House, she uncovered documents defining the Orchard as a Historic Site, as well as the historic protections put in place by Los Altos to preserve the orchard. These are likely to provide a bright future for the orchard.

Robin is now working with the Historic Commission to assure that appropriate signage is installed for the Historic Orchard, as well as to establish a maintenance plan which will improve the care the orchard gets and to enhance the public usability of the orchard.

There are two public benefits from Ms. Chapman's efforts. The first is obviously the preservation of the Historic Orchard for future Los Altans. The second is setting a role model for focused preservation efforts in the community – perhaps more people will step up in other needed preservation efforts, such as at the Redwood Grove. Robin has proven that it can be done.