



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., Monday, June 23, 2008
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair BAKER called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair BAKER, Vice-Chair MARFATIA, Commissioners LONEY, MCDONALD and KRIESMAN
Absent: Commissioners HAMBLIN and DREWES
Staff: Staff Liaison DAHL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MINUTES

MOTION BY CHAIR BAKER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LONEY, to defer the April 28, 2008 meeting minutes.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0).

Vice-Chair MARFATIA arrived.

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS

1. 133 West Edith Avenue

The property owner spoke in support of the porch addition, provided some historical background on the residence and presented some architectural examples of houses with similar styles of porch design.

The Commissioners raised concerns that the porch addition was still adding a porch on a porch, thus creating the impression of a false porch, and that the roof slope of the porch was not in-keeping with the pitch of the roof on the main house. However, it was also noted that the porch was well constructed, looked very nice and did fit in with the existing structure. A couple of Commissioners also noted their appreciation for the effort that the property owner went through in researching the history of the property and the house.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LONEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCDONALD, to approve the porch addition.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Certified Local Government Grants

The Commission discussed applying for grants for the 2009-2010 fiscal year in order to have enough time to gain Council approval and develop the grant application. Several Commissioners raised concerns that projects may get delayed if they are dependent on grant money, noting that the projects should move forward with a goal of obtaining grants, but not limiting them if a grant is not available. It was also noted that the Commission should gain Council approval for projects such as updating the HRI scoring system; secure funding in order to ensure the project can begin, and then work to secure grants.

Chair BAKER appointed herself, Vice-Chair MARFATIA and Commissioner KRIESMAN to a sub-committee that would look into future grant opportunities and develop a grant application.

NO MOTION

3. Historical Preservation Ordinance Amendments

The Commission discussed potential amendments to the Historical Preservation Ordinance to address issues such as the re-evaluation of HRI properties and historic structure demolition. Several Commissioners noted that this was an issue to discuss in the future after the HRI update process was complete.

ITEM TABLED FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

4. Historical Review Process Handout Modification

Staff Liaison DAHL noted that the public handout that provides information on the Historical Commission/historic review process will be updated to reflect the new code amendments and solicited input from the Commission.

NO MOTION

COMMISSION REPORTS

5. Los Altos History Museum Education Committee Update

The Executive Director of the Los Altos History Museum introduced a new volunteer, Donna Vocke, who would be working on the Museum's education committee to provide the Los Altos community with educational opportunities to learn about the history of Los Altos and outlined the goals of the Museum's adult educational program.

The Commission expressed full support for the program and pledged to help support the Museum in all future endeavors related to adult history education.

6. Annual Historical Essay Contest and Ice Cream Social

Commissioner LONEY reported that he was working to distribute the 12 winning essays to local community groups.

7. The Community Picnic

Chair BAKER reported that last year the Commission sponsored a history hunt and that this year there was discussion about locating the Historical Commission's booth in the main picnic area. The Community Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 7, 2008.

8. Report on New Historical Preservation Ordinance Amendments

Staff Liaison DAHL reported on the recently approved Historical Preservation Code Amendments that will be coming into effect in July.

DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair BAKER requested that the topic “Historical Preservation Award” be added to the agenda of the next Historical Commission as a discussion item.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair BAKER adjourned the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Zachary Dahl, AICP
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission