



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

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Regular Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Monday, June 27, 2005  
City Council Chambers  
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

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**ROLL CALL:** Chair DREWES, Vice Chair GIRDLEY, Commissioners BLAKE, and SCHINK  
Absent: Commissioners DUREKAS, FOEBER, and HAMBLIN

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting of May 23, 2005 –Vice Chair Girdley moved to accept the minutes of May 23, 2005. Seconded by Commissioner Schink. Approved (4-0).

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Chair. Speakers are given up to three minutes. State law prohibits the Commission from acting on items that do not appear on the agenda.

### BUSINESS

### CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Drewes and Vice-Chair Girdley will be working closely with Planning Commissioner Hull on the history of the Los Altos street names' section of the City website, in the Historical Commission's section. If a third commissioner is interested in assisting with this project, let Chair Drewes know at a future meeting.

### PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS AND UPDATES

- A. Final approval and permit issuance for 220 University Avenue – Associate Planner D. Kornfield (City of Los Altos), N. Cross, architect, and the owner were present. Due to the slope of the property, the owner and the architect asked the Historical Commission to support an 18" height variance, for the enclosure of the porch, above the garage. Every effort has been made to design the family room enclosure to preserve the architectural integrity of this City of Los Altos "Landmarked Property." After discussion, Vice-Chair Girdley moved to approve the plans as presented, including a recommendation for an 18" height variance above the normal 27' maximum. There was Commission consensus during the discussion that the additional height is required to

match the architectural style and integrity of the existing building. Commissioner Schink seconded the motion. Passed unanimously (4-0).

- A. 20 First Street Review, City of Los Altos Associate Planner, D. Kornfield; D. Rhodes, architect with Young and Borlik; and Joe Colonna, a representative of Norwest Holdings, LLC were present to discuss an office building Norwest Holdings is proposing to develop on the "Ramsey" lot. The project is proposed for 5,000 sq. feet. The Commission proposed that, in addition to the history information plaque explaining the significance of the Ramsey family in the history of Los Altos, that the building could be named and marketed as "Norwest Holdings at the Ramsey Building." Vice-Chair Girdley made a motion to approve demolition of the Ramsey home and approval of the commemorative plaque on the new building. The motion includes a request that Norwest Holdings, LLC consider naming the building "The Ramsey Building." Commissioner Schink seconded the motion. Passed unanimously (4-0).
- B. History Museum Research and Access Policies and Procedures -- J. Rose, incoming President of the Museum Association and J. Dodge, Association Board of Directors' Liaison for Collections, were present to follow up on the City Council's direction to the Commission regarding collections' access. The museum association invited the Commission to see the "Hooray! For the Red, White and Blue!" exhibit and to attend the reception for it on the evening of July 4, 2005. The president mentioned that the policies, procedures and practices in place at the museum were within museum industry standards, and consistent with guidelines from the American Association for State and Local History and the American Association of Museums. She mentioned that a conservation assessor from the Fine Arts Museums had helped provide a preservation plan in 1999 for the collections and that a preservation architect had helped develop facility preservation guidelines for the house in 2001.

A goal of the museum in relation to research, and to materials' and information access is to provide good, fair treatment to many and all. Emergencies do come up and are accommodated; yet, most researchers find they can work well within the museum's systems. The Association representatives encouraged the Commission to gather information: particularly individual names and business names; eras, dates or periods of time; and to bring research projects related to the Historic Resources Inventory to the museum's Resource volunteers and staff and work together to refine the system in place.

- C. Update on Business Cards for the Historical Commission – Vice-Chair Girdley had not seen the City's approved budget yet. The idea of laminated i.d. badges (as in the Community Emergency Response Team's badges) may be revisited later after the Commission has a chance to review the final budget.
- D. Civic Center Picnic, Sunday, August 27, 2005– Vice Chair Girdley suggested there be 2 commissioners per shift on the information table; 2 individuals from 11 am to 1 pm;

followed by two more from 1 pm to 3 pm would allow all to mingle at the picnic as well as staff the table. Commissioners who can make a commitment to help staff the table should let him know no later than the August meeting.

- E. Neutra Cottage Update – Chair Drewes reported that the fundraising committee had raised about \$120,000 prior to City Council’s deadline. This includes the in-kind donations and the cash. The house will probably move by the end of August, perhaps— a bit earlier.
- F. Distribution of Current City Directory – Staff was thanked for this document.
- G. House History Research books for Commissioners -- Staff was thanked for ordering the books.
- H. Commission Recommendation to Council/Need for Access – Chair Drewes and Vice-Chair Girdley reported that City Council had chosen not to change the ordinance.
- I. Request for Copies of Documents from Museum via Staff Liaison – Drewes will have an update for the Commission at a future time.
- J. Update on Staff Liaison – There is no update on this at present.
- K. Distribution of updated Museum Operating Agreement – Staff was thanked for this document.
- L. Documentation of 490 Orange Avenue – No Report on this project.
- M. Protocol for Evaluation of Changes to HRI Properties – No Report on this project.
- N. Agenda Items for the July 25, 2005 Meeting – The Civic Center Picnic and the Neutra Cottage updates are approved for the July Meeting.

**STAFF REPORT**

None.

**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

**OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Madelyn Crawford, Liaison to the Historical Commission, 650-948-9427 x10

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