



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., April 28, 2003
Council Meeting Chambers
Fifty One South San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Carpenter; Vice-Chair Hull; Commissioners; Dai, Drewes, Foerster, and Schink. Absent: Commissioner Humphries

MINUTES

Commissioner Foerster moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on March 24, 2003, seconded by Commissioner Schink. Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Welcome and Introduction of new Commissioner Dai.
2. 184 Marvin Avenue – R. Morton (realtor) and owner – A substantive discussion led to a clear split between the Commission's goals of preservation, if possible, and their respect for the rights of individual owners to manage their assets including their property and homes. Due to the 3-3 split in the discussion, Commissioner Foerster stated a motion reluctantly or with regret, advising the Planning Commission that the properties could be demolished. Motion seconded by Commissioner Schink. Vice-Chair Hull amended the motion requesting two months (to the meeting on June 23) to try to arrange for the Neutra buildings to be donated and the cost of the moving to be paid by the recipient (whether a foundation, non-profit, etc.). The goal is to save the buildings even if they don't remain in Los Altos. Commissioner Drewes seconded the amended motion and volunteered to work with Vice-Chair Hull on finding an entity or person willing to move the buildings. The amended motion passed unanimously. The owner, and Los Altos resident, has stated

in the past that he's willing to donate the residences, if necessary. He is ready to sell the land and wants to make the most of the selling season coming up. The resident and Morton will return for the June 23 meeting.

3. Stephanie Ryan of Avalon Enterprises presented the plans for repairing and replacing materials at 485 University Avenue. The owner and a member of Avalon Enterprises' staff were also present. After reviewing the drawings and some discussion between all present, Commissioner Foerster made a motion to accept their plans as presented and commended the family for preserving this home. Foerster's motion was seconded by Commissioner Dai. It passed unanimously.

Chairperson's report:

Welcome and Introduction of new Commissioner Dai.

2. 439 Rinconada Ct. – Now on target for the Council Meeting of May 14, 2003.
3. Revised Council Meeting Schedule: Chair Carpenter explained that the Commissioner's rotate attendance at the Council Meetings. If anyone on the Commission has a problem with the assignments, please feel free to trade by e-mail. When a trade is finalized, please notify the Chair (Carpenter), the City Clerk's office (the Commissioner representative names appear on the Council agenda so that they can call on Commissioner's if need be.) and please copy the staff liaison (Crawford). Thanks to everyone for their time representing the Commission and historic preservation at these meetings.
4. Next Meeting: Due to Memorial Day, the May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29th at the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Commission Discussions and Reports:

- A. Incorporation Recreation Video -- Commissioner Foerster talked with Mrs. Geschke and Chris Johnson, the remote crewmember/cameraman from the Foothill History Show days. He has also checked in with I. Grenier who organized these programs. A place and time to videotape the program still needs to be identified.
- B. Essay Contest – Chair Carpenter mentioned the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, May 13, at 6pm; followed by the awarding of the prizes at the Council Meeting. Commissioners were asked to make sure they had this event on their calendars. (Carpenter has another commitment this evening.) Commissioner Schink volunteered to help Commissioner Humphries with the 2004 Contest—she will contact Humphries directly. Chair Carpenter commented that the more commissioners trained and oriented on different aspects of the contest the better.

- C. Budget for 2003 – '04 and 2004 – '05 – Updating the Historic Resources Inventory: Chair Carpenter had hired a software consultant who requires a 3 hour minimum to come to the museum, meet with her and “test drive” adapting Filemaker Pro for the database, the text documents and the images so that an HRI software that is in common use is the standard for Los Altos. If there is enough money left in the 2002 – '03 Historical Commission budget, Chair Carpenter would like to be reimbursed. The Commission supported that use of funds by consensus. Three homes have rankings on the spread sheet but no Primary Record sheets; one home has a Record Sheet, but no rating on the spread sheet. Commissioners took assignments to work on fixing the inconsistencies. Commissioner Foerster, Vice-Chair Hull and Commissioner Drewes are serving on the HRI correction and update sub-committee.
- E. '50's Homes – Discussion tabled for a future meeting.
- F. Old Business – Commissioner Foerster gave a verbal report on the conversations he is having with the owners of high-ranking buildings and homes about their interest in attaining a landmark status and Resolution with the City. He has made good progress.

HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT

A copy of the quarterly report on museum activity and attendance prepared for the City had been distributed. No discussion of the report.

OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE:

NEW BUSINESS:

96 Los Altos Avenue – Vice Chair Hull mentioned that 96 Los Altos Avenue would be reviewed at an Architectural and Site Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 30. The Commission has discussed this home a few times at the instigation of former Commissioner McDonald who has interviewed some people for the museum's oral history collection. The Commission asked Vice-Chair Hull to attend the meeting as a representative of the Commission and to encourage the owners and their architect to reconsider their current plans for expansion and to consider the streetscape and neighborhood views. It might be possible for the owners to get the space increases they need for their family (and that they desire for modern expectations) by building underground and behind the present house. This item was not on the agenda; however, Chair Carpenter wasn't certain she could join Vice-Chair Hull and the commission designated Hull to be available to explain the types of services and assistance the Commission can provide to owners of older, interesting homes. Commissioner Drewes will also

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try to attend as an orientation opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Drewes moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Schink.
The Commission adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Madelyn Crawford, History Museum Director, Liaison to the Historical Commission, 650-948-9427
X10, e-mail: madelyn.crawford@ci.los-altos.ca.us; fax: 650/559-0268