



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, June 26, 2006
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair GIRDLEY called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair GIRDLEY, Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY, Commissioners BLAKE, DREWES, HAMBLIN and SCHINK
Absent: Commissioner FOERSTER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Consideration of the minutes from the May 22, 2006 Historical Commission meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner DREWES and seconded by Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY to adopt the May 22, 2006 minutes.

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.

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS:

1. **571 Cherry Avenue:** Consideration of increasing the HRI ranking for this property to 85 from 78. (*Banks*)

Commissioner DREWES presented an overview of the subcommittee's recommendation to increase the ranking for the property to 85 points. Chair GIRDLEY presented existing properties with scores of 20 for persons associated with the property and discussed why Lucille Liewer was worthy of a similar score as recommended by the subcommittee. There was discussion about whether Erwin Reichel or Birge Clark was the architect for the property. Chair GIRDLEY pointed out that two points is permitted for identifying the architect/builder, which is now possible.

It was moved by Commissioner HAMBLIN and seconded by Commissioner DREWES to increase the points for Architecture by 2 points for identifying the architect/builder.

The motion passed 6-0

It was moved by Commissioner HAMBLIN and seconded by Commissioner BLAKE to increase the points for History to 20 points from 15 points.

The motion passed 6-0.

It was moved by Commissioner HAMBLIN and seconded by Commissioner DREWES to recommend that the home at 571 Cherry Avenue be nominated to be a Historic Landmark.

The motion passed 6-0.

2. Neutra House: Progress report on Neutra House. (*Drewes*)

King Lear and Roy Lave of the Community Foundation made a presentation about the renovation of the Neutra House and their future plans for its use. They discussed interior changes being considered that would make the facility useful for meetings and an architectural history museum. No exterior changes would be made. They also discussed landscape concepts being considered.

The Commissioners expressed their support of the concepts being discussed. The Commission emphasized that given the progress made to restore the Neutra House that it would be a shame not to continue with the renovation. They also praised the innovative approach planned for the museum.

It was moved by Commissioner HAMBLIN and seconded by Commissioner DREWES to reaffirm the Commission's support for renovation of the Neutra House and that Chair GIRDLEY represent the Commission at the upcoming City Council meeting discussing the renovations.

The motion passed 6-0.

3. Commission Questions: Consideration of questions for future Historical Commission applicants. (*Banks*)

The Commission supported the questions submitted by Commissioners BLAKE and Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY and a previously submitted question by Commissioner DREWES.

It was moved by Commissioner DREWES and seconded by Commissioner BLAKE to forward the questions for future Commissioners submitted by Commissioners BLAKE, DREWES and Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair GIRDLEY discussed the subcommittee for 571 Cherry's meeting of May 31, 2006. Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY provided an update on her discussion with the Museum Director about the Commission getting access to the museum archives. The Museum Director indicated the Commission would be given access to the archives. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be scheduling a meeting to meet with her.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Policy for requiring that properties that apply for the Mills Act be designated as a Historic Landmark.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair GIRDLEY adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Curtis Banks, AICP
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission

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