



HISTORICAL COMMISSION ACTION MINUTES

Regular Meeting of May 23, 2005
City Council Chambers
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Drewes, Vice-Chair Girdley, Commissioners Durekas, Foerster, Hamblin, and
Absent: Blake and Schink.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER FOERSTER MOVED that the minutes of the April 25, 2005 Regular Meeting be approved. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR GIRDLEY AND PASSED BY VOICE VOTE (4-1 abstention; (Hamblin abstained from the vote)).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was presented at the meeting.

SPECIAL ITEM

Mike Larkin, VEGA and museum volunteer was thanked for assisting the Essay Contest Subcommittee with importing the participant's names onto the individual certificates.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

BUSINESS

- A. 1398 Chelsea Drive – A realtor for the seller from Cashin Company, a potential buyer, and a realtor representing the potential buyer of 1398 Chelsea were introduced. The property rates 60 on the Historic Resources Inventory. The potential buyer shared his interest in acquiring a historic property. The frame structure may need to be lifted up so a new foundation can be created. The kitchen may need to be remodeled and a master bath created upstairs. The 1960 era carport is undesirable. If possible, the footprint of the carport might be used to create an enclosed garage. These are concepts, not plans. Planning Commissioner Hull assisted the Historical Commission with a discussion of process for reviewing proposals and getting approval for plans and variances. The potential buyer was commended for his interest in preserving a charming home and encouraged to come back at a later time.

- B. Historical Commission recommendation to City Council to update the “Powers and Duties” section of the Municipal code. VICE-CHAIR GIRDLEY MOVED that City staff not be allowed to make changes to Transmittal Memos after the memo has been finalized and approved with the Commission. The Commission will have one of the Commissioners present verbally to City Council the Commission’s displeasure with the addition of the two sentences under the Background Section on the Transmittal Memo. THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN. The Commission will discuss the protocol and ethics of the changes to the Transmittal Memo with Council.
- C. Essay Contest Ice Cream Social & Awards Ceremony – Both a big success; 410 students participated. The Ice Cream Social is at 6 pm on the Museum patio. Prizes are awarded at the Council Meeting at 7 pm.
- D. Commissioner Business Cards- Vice Chair Girdley and Planning Commissioner Hull talked about low cost options for providing business cards only to the Commissions. Staff will check in with the City Clerk on the budget meeting to ask if Council approved this item.
- E. 481 - 484 Cherry Avenue – The Chair discussed his research with the Planning Division on the addresses on Cherry (484 Cherry is on the Commission’s “Properties of Interest” List).
- F. Proposed documentation of 490 Orange Avenue – Chair Drewes will photographically document a property that is not on the HRI, working with the owner.
- G. Protocol for Evaluation of Changes to HRI Properties – All discussed that they would be gathering material from other cities’—perhaps, through the regional Historic Preservation lunch group as well as from City web sites.
- H. Civic Center Community Picnic – Vice-Chair Girdley is serving on the Picnic Committee. He purchased a cover for the table—contributions from individuals are welcome.
- I. Agenda Items for the June 27, 2005 Meeting -- The Community Picnic at Civic Center in August, and Protocol for Evaluation of Changes to HRI Properties will be on the June Agenda. New, updated copies of the City Roster were requested for each commissioner.

STAFF REPORT

- A. **Essay Contest** – The winners’ school information was passed to the Museum’s Education Committee and to Assistant Superintendent Boettcher at the District.

OTHER BUSINESS

Neutra Relocation Committee Report - Chair Drewes reported the fundraising committee has raised \$50,000 in kind from a large construction company and \$50,000 in cash. Congratulations to all on meeting this deadline.

STAFF REPORT

1. Historical Commission Budget versus Actuals: \$10. had been requested in individual checks
2. HRI Access Template Orientation for Commissioners Girdley and Blake will be scheduled in the future.
3. Reminder: Four members of the Commission are required for a quorum. Please share your travel/holiday plans with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Staff Liaison as you solidify them. If there will not be a quorum, a notice indicating that no meeting will be held on the Regular Meeting date is posted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.