



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION ACTION MINUTES

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Regular Meeting of Monday, January 24, 2005  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

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### Roll Call

**Present:** Chair Foerster; Vice Chair Drewes; Commissioners - Carpenter, Girdley, Hamblin, and Schink.

**Absent:** Durekas.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER MOVED that the minutes of the December 13 meeting be approved. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR DREWES. Passed (6-0).

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

## DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - FOERSTER

a. Proposed Demolition of 448 Cherry Avenue – The property owner sought Commission input on demolition of the buildings on his property. One is rated 58 on the Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) (The other property is unrated and new). A discussion about dry rot and termite damage potentially under the river rock exterior and the state of the electrical wiring took place.

COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN MOVED that the Historical Commission forward a recommendation allowing demolition of the 448 Cherry Avenue structure (rated 58 on the HRI). THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARPENTER. Passed (4-2; opposing votes from Vice-Chair Drewes and Commissioner Girdley).

b. 288 First Street Re-Roofing – Three representatives from the family that owns Maria's Antiques were present. Mark Connolly, Associate Planner--assigned to the project review was also present and responded to questions. Mr. Armstrong explained the owners' need to replace the roof due to wear with a water proof or water resistant material. COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN MOVED that the Historical Commission recommend to the owners and to Planning Division staff a replacement with either a "wooden shingle effect" material such as Owens-Corning's "slate slag" roofing (or wood shingle). THE

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIRDLEY. Passed (6-0).

- c. Introduction of Julie Rose, Museum Board Representative and Vice-President, Ways and Means, for the Los Altos History Museum Board. Rose is a former member of the Historical Commission.
- d. Review of Annual Joint Study Session with Council—The Commission is looking forward to seeing an analysis of the language in the Municipal Code and potentially, the addition of a new item spelling out the Historical Commission's charge to conduct research for the Historic Resources Inventory.
- e. Commissioner Research Training—Chair Foerster led a discussion that included Vice President Julie Rose of the Museum Association about the Commission's desire to be able to call the museum the day before for access to collections' artifacts and original materials; the Commission would like to see the Collections' volunteers' handbook; they would also like an additional day as a preference day. The Commission is looking forward to working this out with the Association of the Historical Museum.
- f. Budget 2005 – 2007 – Commissioner Hamblin pointed out that the chart of accounts categories in use with the Historical Commission's programs and projects were very few. He thought possibly the budget could be simplified. (A Budget Document accompanies this component of the meeting.)
- g. Griffin House Letter—Chair Foerster was empowered to formulate recommendations for the Griffin House.

## COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

- a. Neutra Relocation Committee Report – Vice Chair Drewes led a discussion of methods for raising \$100,000 by the middle of May 2005. Council had conditionally accepted the donation of the cottage, pending a staff report on locations, costs, ongoing maintenance, and administrative issues.
- b. Walking Tour Brochure – Commissioner Carpenter reported design work and copy revisions are in progress. She'll show the Commission the brochure lay-out at a future meeting. The printer has been identified. Staff will work with Carpenter and The Brand Ranch on the payment method.
- c. History of the Greater Los Altos Area – Tabled for a future meeting.
- d. Design and Restoration Guidelines Pamphlet – Commissioner Girdley is planning a sub-committee meeting on this topic soon.
- e. HRI Access Update – Staff asked if the Commission was interested in scheduling a group training session after hours at the Rec. Department work-stations or recruiting a VEGA volunteer to assist them with entry and transfer of the material prepared by Larry Kaplan. Other options include asking City Council approval to request funds from the State Office of Historic Preservation during their application round in the spring. A final option might be

asking City Council for funding for a temporary contractor to enter information from one template to the newer one.

- f. City Web Site Update – Carpenter thought the topic had been resolved.
- g. Essay Contest – Durekas was not present. Chair Foerster reported that the Essay Contest packets had been prepared and distributed.

## **HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT**

### **WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

Other Matters/New Business

Future Agenda Items: Coloring Book or Sheet idea.

Next Meetings: Regular Meeting: Monday, February 28, 2005, at 7 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.

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