


HISTORICAL COMMISSION ACTION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting of Monday, September 27, 2004
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers, City Hall
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: P. Foerster, Chair; J. Drewes, Vice Chair; Commissioners – V. Carpenter, F. Durekas, J. Hamblin, and K. Girdley. L. Schink: Absent: None. 

MINUTES

Commissioner Durekas moved approval of the minutes of the August 23, 2004 Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. Approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Hamblin introduced Dorothy Blake, a future Historical Commission applicant.  introduced a topic about the expansions of schools such as Covington. The Commission identified that this is a topic for the Planning Commission.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – FOERSTER**
 - a. Essay Contest—Chair Foerster introduced former Historical Commissioner M. Thompson, a member of the Museum Education Committee. Thompson thanked the Commission for two decades of the contest. The Education Committee will provide their usual role in relation to the contest but cannot take it on. The theme for this year will be “What was Los Altos Like in the 1930’s?” Commissioner Carpenter moved that a joint sub-committee with Commissioners Schink and Durekas be formed with some element of the museum. Seconded by Vice-Chair Drewes. Passed (6-0). Thompson will find the museum or community volunteers to supplement the committee. Commissioner Durekas volunteered to word process the changes to the teacher’s and students’ hand-outs.
 - b. Chair Foerster introduced L. McCreight, President, Board of Directors, Los Altos History Museum. McCreight is observing the meeting. The Commission and the Museum are getting re-acquainted with each other’s missions, charges, and projects.
 - c. Preserve America Award—Chair Foerster had read the award material and recommended that the Museum nominate itself for the House Tour. The sponsorship from Northern Trust makes a good match for the guidelines of the Contest. The tour has the effect of drawing many people to Los Altos and instilling pride in historic preservation in the community.

2. COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

- a. Two new Historic Resources Inventory Work Project Date(s) were tentatively scheduled for the Recreation Department: Monday, October 18, and Wednesday, October 20, both starting at 7 pm.
- b. Neutra Relocation Committee – Drewes mentioned that the Sub-Committee was meeting again on that upcoming Wednesday. R. Lave of the Community Foundation thought it would be possible to raise funds for moving the cottage. An additional location, an abandoned playground near the Community Foundation, is being reviewed. The museum's Board of Directors appointed L. Lynch (a former Historical Commissioner, Mayor and Council Member) to act as the museum's liaison between the joint Neutra Sub-committee and the museum's Board.
- c. The Historical Commission's wish to access the Cities' historical collection –Vice-Chair Drewes led a discussion of his wish to handle original materials from the collections. The only commissioners who had worked during the three-month trial period established by the Commission were Foerster and Hamblin. The museum had furnished information to Carpenter for her property, without being asked to.

Commissioner Girdley made a motion that any commissioners who wished would be trained by museum personnel as resource volunteers to work on the Historical Commission projects. The commissioners would agree to follow the museum's practices and procedures in how they work with the computer information on collections and how they handle any original materials that they need to look at or review. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamblin. Motion passed (6-0). Vice Chair Drewes and Commissioner Girdley then volunteered to train as resource volunteers to assist other commissioners with Historical Commission projects.

President McCreight will work with the museum staff to arrange resource volunteer training so that Vice-Chair Drewes and Commissioner Girdley can do their own research on the collections' accessions after 1999 (information that the museum hopes to have up on the website in the future) and the archival material prior to 1999.

McCreight will also inform museum staff of the Historical Commission's requirement to have full access to the archival information in the Collection during normal business hours.

- d. Review Home Evaluations – All

125 Los Altos Avenue—Commissioner Durekas moved to approve a combined rating of 75 points. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. Approved (6-0)

994 Los Altos Avenue (Foodland)—Commissioner Carpenter approved a combined rating of 42 points. Seconded by Chair Drewes. (Approved (6-0).

- f. HRI Presentation for Alain Pinel—Foerster discussed a Monday, October 18, 9:30 am meeting time for this presentation. Commissioner Carpenter will probably volunteer to run

the presentation with a couple of the new commissioners (Hamblin, Girdley) attending for orientation purposes.

- g. Restoration and Design Info Sheet – Girdley placed this item on the agenda for the October or November meeting.
- h. Heritage Trees--Main and State Streets – Girdley reported the pistache trees are protected by virtue of being street trees. He will generate a letter to City Council asking that an alternative method be used.
- i. Children's Coloring Book for City Picnic - Drewes placed this item on the agenda for the October meeting.

HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT

Heritage Council of Santa Clara County museum brochures were distributed with an explanation of reciprocal membership benefits available during October to members at all participating museums.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items: Several items were moved to the October agenda. Staff asked that the Certified Local Government Annual Report be on the October agenda.

Next Meeting: **7 PM MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004**, Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers, City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

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