



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION ACTION MINUTES

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Regular Meeting of Monday, August 23, 2004  
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers, City Hall  
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

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### ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: L. Kaplan, Staff Liaison Crawford

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN MOVED that the minutes of the July 26, 2004 Meeting be approved as written. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIRDLEY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

### BUSINESS

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair Foerster will discuss with the Museum's Education Committee their taking over the **Historical Essay Contest** this year. He will contact the Board Liaison, Education Chair, and may attend their September 20 meeting to discuss the idea with the group.

#### **COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Work Project Date—Community volunteer Larry Kaplan mentioned that he had been able to export part of the data from the “pdf” documents to the template. A key difficulty related to the State's templates are the extensive memos or notes that accompany some primary record entries with the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory. The images (maps, photos) etc. are not attached to the Access document. A pointer is created between the Access 2000 file and an image storage document. (Kaplan is Chair of the Museum's Information Technology Committee, a C.A.R. volunteer, and the museum board representative to this meeting.) Two tentative dates were identified for an orientation to the Access template or for a “hands-on” entry work party: September 19 and September 25, 2004. Both orientations will be at 10:30 am, at the Recreation Department offices, 97 Hillview Avenue.

Neutra Relocation Committee – Vice Chair Drewes described the sub-committee's process in reviewing and evaluating potential sites and in getting cost estimates to create a budget for the project and for fundraising.

Influencing Building Styles – Commissioner Girdley discussed some new building projects that are a pastiche of different styles and eras with the Commission. He brought a copy of the City's Design Review Guidelines (Planning Division document).

Support for California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) – The Commission consensus was that the City and community of Los Altos are minimally involved in the benefits such as grant-making that the Office provides. It made little sense for this Commission to advocate for them.

Current Home Evaluations – Vice-Chair Drewes had worked with former commissioners Hull and McDonald to prepare his report on the State's old "Word" template. Commissioner Girdley shared a Property Profile prepared for him by a title company in relation to the Foodland property. Both had recommended ratings to be voted on at the next Commission meeting. Commissioners Schink and Durekas had not had a chance to work together on Schink's description of her parents' home yet. Commissioner Carpenter had largely completed her report. Hamblin had photographed and written the architectural evaluation portion of the Primary Record and rating for 300 S. El Monte.

Historic Barns Update – None.

Staffing and Materials for Los Altos Picnic – Commissioner Girdley discussed participation in the Civic Center Community Picnic. The Commission will distribute the downtown Walking Tour brochure. There was discussion of a coloring sheet or 2-d puzzle about historic properties that Vice-Chair Drewes had suggested earlier. The Commission likes this idea and wants to pursue it for future use.

Commissioners' Orientation – Commissioner Carpenter announced the September 8 City orientation for commissioners and committee members.

Historical Commission and its involvement in recording history in the broader Los Altos Community -- Commissioner Hamblin raised the topic of the Los Altos – Los Altos Hills connection and the sphere of influence of Los Altos. His sense is that heritage buildings in the nearby area (the County, etc.) might need to be documented in some manner. Staff Liaison Crawford mentioned that the County's Historical Heritage Commission has a Historic Resources Inventory. They have contracted with Leslie Dill's historic preservation consulting group to create an update for their HRI. Their staff liaison is Dana Peake (at the County Planning Department).

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

Opening Reception for "Votes for Women: Unfinished Business," exhibit at Los Altos History Museum, on Thursday, September 23, 2004, 5 to 7 pm. (All are welcome; bring friends and neighbors.)

## **WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

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A memo from Mayor Moss invited Commissioners to attend an evening at NASA on September 23, 2004.

**OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS**

Future Agenda Items: None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.