



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., March 24, 2003
Council Meeting Chambers
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Foerster; Commissioners; Drewes, Hull, Humphries, and Schink. Absent: Vice-Chair Carpenter and Commissioner Dai.

MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the meeting on February 24, 2003 with one correction that section E (which was repetitive of the Chair's report under 3.) be stricken. It was also noted that there was no record in the minutes of the Commission's thanks to departing Commissioners Sandoval and McDonald. Commissioner Hull moved approval of the minutes as corrected and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schink. Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Welcome and Introduction of new Commissioners Drewes and Schink.
2. Wayne Aozasa of White Tiger Developers and George Ramsey (the grandson of the builder) attended to discuss the proposed demolition of 20 First St. in Los Altos. The project will create underground parking, appropriate parking and delivery for the post office, and a new long term lease for the postal function, loft/live-work condominiums, a parklet on the berm, and office space. Due to the isolation of the residence in a commercial and almost industrial environment and due to the now relatively poor state of the house and grounds, the Commission agreed to recommend to the Planning Commission and Planning staff that the structure could be demolished and the development project would not be hindered by historic preservation interests. The motion was made by

Commissioner Hull, seconded by Commissioner Schink. It was agreed that the interior and exterior of 20 First St. will be documented by Commissioner Hull, working with George Ramsey to find a convenient time.

Chairperson's report:

3. 439 Rinconada Ct. –Several Commissioners had taken advantage of the owners' offer to provide a tour of the interior of the home. The letter for the Council Memo is going forward.
4. Meeting with James Walgren, Community Development Director: Chair Foerster reported that Walgren also recommended using the term Landmark (with the capital L) be applied only to buildings that had a City Landmark Resolution adopted for them. "Eligible for Landmark" might be a better way to describe properties that have a high ranking or score. All the new potential landmark owners have been contacted by phone and copies of the City Municipal Code section 12.44 will be mailed to them (the section describing the duties of the Historical Commission).
5. Certificates –Chair Foerster and Commissioner Hull followed through on the few that still needed further attention.
6. Incorporation Video -- Chair Foerster volunteered to talk with Mrs. Geschke and maybe Chris Johnson, the remote crewmember/cameraman from the Foothill History Show days. A place to videotape the program still needs to be identified. Donna Legge, one of the Recreation Department Supervisors, is the City's liaison to KMTV in Mountain View; staff will ask about logistics and procedures of filming there; a second idea is to film in the Los Altos Council Chambers using the VEGA crew.

Commission Discussions and Reports:

- A. Election of Officers – Commissioner Humphries nominated Vice-Chair Carpenter for Chair and Commissioner Hull for Vice-Chair (Due to tradition, Carpenter had agreed to accept a nomination--if made--although she was absent). Nomination seconded by Commissioner Drewes. The vote was unanimous. Vice-Chair Hull remarked on Chair Foerster's results as Chair and that the whole commission appreciated his leadership.
- B. Essay Contest – The judging had taken place and was enjoyable; about 450 students had participated. The next element is the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, May 13, at 6pm approximately; followed by the awarding of the cash prizes at the Council Meeting. Commissioners were asked to make sure they had this event on their calendars.
- C. Budget for 2003 – '04 and 2004 – '05 – Updating the Historic Resources Inventory is the major request here. Vice-Chair Hull and Commissioner Humphries are concerned that actual

estimates for the Filemaker Pro conversion consultant need to be identified. Perhaps, the estimate of \$2,000 is low.

- E. '50's Homes – Commissioner Foerster and the group discussed methods for identifying some excellent examples of well preserved ranch homes and locating some owners who are interested in seeing their home rated on the Kalman scale and perhaps, even selected as landmark examples of the style.

F. The Commission expressed appreciation and thanks to departing members Don McDonald and Mark Sandoval for their years of work as commissioners. They also expressed a hope that they will be seeing both former commissioners in the future.

HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT

Attendance statistics for the museum were distributed.

OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Drewes moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Humphries. The Commission adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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