



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., July 22, 2002
City Council Meeting Chambers
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Foerster; Vice-Chair Carpenter; Commissioners Hull, Humphries, McDonald, and Sandoval. Absent: None

MINUTES

Corrections: It was noted that the term “historically important” was deleted twice from the minutes. Approval of the corrected minutes of the June , 2002 meeting, was moved by Commissioner McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Hull. Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the audience may bring to the attention of the commission any item that is not on the agenda. Speakers are given up to three (3) minutes. State law prohibits the Commission from acting on items that do not appear on the agenda.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. The homeowner for 500 University Avenue was welcomed. It is the family’s intention to negotiate a Mills Act contract for 500 University Avenue. This idea has previously been endorsed by the Historical Commission in 1993 and 1994, as part of the process for the property to become a City Landmark developed. The landmark designation is Resolution No. 95-38. Chair Foerster moved that the Historical Commission send a current letter endorsing the idea to the homeowner. Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Chair Foerster will write the letter of endorsement. There was an informal discussion about creating an outline or a flow chart documenting the Mills Act process, using the 500 University project to track the steps and the order.
Chairperson’s report: Vice-Chair Carpenter chaired the meeting due to Chair Foerster’s jet lag.
 - a. The General Plan is scheduled to go forward to Council sometime in September.

b. Commission Vacancy: Vice-Chair Carpenter will talk to someone in August; Chair Foerster had left a message for someone else; and the resident of 500 University suggested Wendell Lehr's son-in-law as an architect who might be interested.

Commissioner Reports:

1. Commissioners Hull and Sandoval reported on their progress rewriting and updating the Introductory Section of the Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) and comparing it to information from other cities. A goal was set to use a new property to define the process for adding information: a rating and a primary information sheet to the HRI. Another goal was set to reevaluate a property on the HRI and perhaps change its ranking and add to its primary information sheet. A property that has additional information to be added to the primary information sheets is the Neutra cottage.
2. Commissioner Humphries reported briefly on preservation resources that have been purchased by the library. The library could be asked to do a book display in October 2002 when the history museums in Santa Clara County are working on joint marketing for "History Month: Discover the Past," or an alternate time would be during National Historic Preservation Week which is the first week in May each year. One of the goals had been to have a bibliography available on the Historical Commission's pages on the City Web Site. There still should be a flow chart or a matrix of what happens when a historic homeowner enters the remodeling process with the City and begins a relationship where the Historical Commission has an opportunity to assist the owner, the planning and building staff work on the variance, zoning, permit and other processes, etc.
3. Vice-Chair Carpenter and Commissioner McDonald spoke briefly about the "50th Anniversary" exhibit. The reception is 8/22/'02, from 5 to 7 pm—a postcard to every home in the 94022 and 94024 zip codes will be mailed out. The postcard invites residents who have lived in Los Altos fifty or more years to attend the opening reception (with support from the Los Altos Community Foundation). McDonald will staff a table where the names and telephone numbers of residents who were here at incorporation or who have lived here 50 or more years can be taken for the Oral History Committee. Carpenter reported that the exhibit sub-committee is doing a great job and they are very enthusiastic.
4. Recognition of Historic Property Owners – Hull presented the Draft Historic Properties Certificate and a few minor suggestions were made. There was a brief discussion that the owners of properties ranked 80 and above might be the group recognized. Chair Foerster volunteered to present the certificate at the upcoming Mayor's meeting.
5. Vice-Chair Carpenter presented a draft of the article. The Commission reviewed it and approved it. The article will be forwarded to LANN.

HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT

No verbal report.

OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE:

The brochure on the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Cleveland was passed around. A brief discussion ensued around Ms. I. Hession's offer to perform four hours of work for the Historical Commission to receive credit for a De Anza class. Commissioner McDonald volunteered to contact her to see if helping him staff his table at the "50+ years in Los Altos" reception would meet her instructor's criteria.

Commissioner McDonald also reported on his attendance at the Environmental Committee's meeting and their progress on the Heritage Trees brochure revision.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Foerster moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sandoval. The Commission adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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