



**MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO**

**CITY COUNCIL/HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING STUDY SESSION**

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

**Norco City Hall Conference Rooms A & B
2870 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860**



CALL TO ORDER:

4:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Berwin Hanna, Mayor, **Present**
Herb Higgins, Mayor Pro Tem, **Present**
Kathy Azevedo, Council Member, **Present**
Kevin Bash, Council Member, **Present**
Greg Newton, Council Member, **Present**
Matthew Potter, Chair, **Present**
Diane Stiller, Vice Chair, **Present**
Patricia Overstreet, Commissioner, **Present**
Mark Sawyer, Commissioner, **Absent**
Denise Sutherland, Commissioner, **Present**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Bash

DISCUSSION ITEM:

- 1. Discussion Defining the Scope of Work Related to the Norconian Historical Resources Survey (Bill Wilkman, Cultural Resources Consultant)**

Cultural Resources Consultant Bill Wilkman presented a brief presentation regarding the Norconian resources survey on World War II and Post World War II eras. Mr. Wilkman explained the four criteria in determining historic significance, which are: people, events, architecture, and archeology. He also discussed the definition of a historical district.

Mr. Wilkman continued by explaining the process for a National Register survey. The first steps include researching the history of the property and organizing the history into contexts and themes. The next steps include determining ways that history is physically expressed and documenting those physical characteristics, determining the level of integrity, and applying the four criteria. Finally, the survey is submitted to the State Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Wilkman presented aerial photographs of the property showing the boundaries of what is part of the National Register, which includes the Norconian Hotel and Club House building. Mr. Wilkman also briefly discussed other buildings on the property such as the teahouse, power house, smokestack, chauffeurs quarters, gas pump island, and garage. Mr. Wilkman presented additional aerial photographs of what is not on the National Register and will be covered by the survey. The photographs showed the property divided into "units" for research purposes. Unit One includes the hotel/hospital, nurse's quarters, the hospital addition, gym/theater complex, corporals' quarters, and the chapel. Unit Two includes the tuberculosis hospital/weapons research complex, command center, officer's quarters, and fuse testing/bunker area. Unit Three includes the rheumatic fever hospital. He also commented on some significant finds thus far such as penicillin treatment for tuberculosis and the establishment of wheelchair basketball.

Mr. Wilkman discussed the value of the survey and that it defines what is and is not historic outside of the boundaries of what is already on the National Register. Historic property designations offer protections. Mr. Wilkman stated that the survey will take approximately six months to one year to complete. Mr. Wilkman concluded the presentation by indicating that the Navy's survey does not adequately evaluate the potential historic importance of the property. At this stage, it appears clear that a World War II/post World War II historic district exists. Research so far points to the likely qualification of the property for National Register listing on the basis of important people, events, and architecture.

In response to Commissioner Sutherland, Mr. Wilkman stated that the property can qualify at all levels and only needs to meet one criterion to qualify as a historical resource.

Mayor Pro Tem Higgins commented on the number of times the City has sent correspondence to the State Historic Preservation Office and has not received responses.

Linda Dixon spoke on behalf of the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and commented on the inaccuracies of the Navy's survey. Ms. Dixon commented that the City's survey will protect the property. Ms. Dixon stated that the Lake Norconian Club Foundation has also sent letters to the State Historic Preservation Office and has not received responses.

Su Bacon spoke on behalf of the Lake Norconian Club Foundation and expressed her concerns with the Navy setting precedence with determinations leading to the removal of buildings.

Mr. Wilkman stated that the State Historic Preservation Office has not made a determination yet and has asked them to hold off making a determination until the City's survey is complete.

Council Member Azevedo indicated that Senator Roth will be meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office and the City is awaiting details.

In response to Chair Potter, Mr. Wilkman stated that if the State Historic Preservation Office makes a determination not in the City's favor, then the City could go to the State Historical Resources Commission. However, the State Historical Resources Commission cannot overturn the State Historic Preservation Office's decision. Assuming a negative response, Mayor Pro Tem Higgins asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Wilkman indicated that he could request that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation investigate the matter. Council Member Azevedo reiterated to wait to hear the details from Senator Roth's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hanna adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

CHERYL L. LINK, CITY CLERK