



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
2870 CLARK AVENUE
CONFERENCE ROOM "A"
January 13, 2015



Commission Members:

Matthew Potter - Chair
Diana Stiller - Vice Chair
Patricia Overstreet - Commission Member
Mark Sawyer - Commission Member

Absent Member:

Denise Sutherland – Commission Member

Staff Members:

Bill Wilkman, Preservation Consultant
Roger Grody, Economic Development Consultant

Guests:

Linda Dixon, Lake Norconian Club Foundation
Su Bacon, Lake Norconian Club Foundation

CALL TO ORDER: **4:02 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **Vice Chair Stiller**

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: **None**

2. READ BY THE CHAIR: "All discretionary actions before the Historic Preservation Commission are advisory in nature and final actions will be confirmed, modified or deleted by the City Council."

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Regular Meeting of November 18, 2014

M/S Overstreet/Sawyer to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014, as written

AYES: Potter, Overstreet, Sawyer, Stiller **Motion Passed**

ABSENT: Sutherland

4. UPDATE ON LAKE NORCONIAN CLUB FOUNDATION LITIGATION (Guest Speakers Dixon and Bacon):

Ms. Dixon provided background and context for the lawsuit recently filed by the Lake Norconian Club Foundation (LNCF) against the State of California Department of Corrections (DOC). She recounted her organization's persistent efforts in rallying support from elected officials, all of which have been stalled by the DOC's consistent refusal to mothball the building. She stated that the current warden has not permitted sufficient access for restoration experts to fully evaluate the scope of the work, indicating that litigation was the only remaining recourse.

The LNCF retained prominent preservation attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley to file suit, which was done in Alameda County due to a lower case load backlog than in Sacramento County. Ms. Dixon and Ms. Bacon reiterated that the City of Norco is not a party to the litigation; it is simply listed as a party of interest for informational purposes.

Commission Members applauded the efforts of the LNCF; and the two guests offered to keep the Commission updated throughout the course of the proceedings.

5. LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE HISTORIC COLLECTIONS:

a. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICIAL NAME OF COLLECTION (Chair Potter):

After a brief introduction on the subject, Chair Potter turned the discussion over to Consultant Grody, who reported that research revealed very few creative names of local collections or small town historic museums. He distributed a list of possible names, with his favorites containing the words "heritage" and "center". Consultant Grody noted that "heritage" is a strong word because it conveys not only history, but traditions and values. He also suggested "center", noting that it is a better alternative to "museum" as it is more encompassing and that the word "museum" raises expectations of a more professionally operated facility.

Member Sawyer expressed support for the name "Norco Community Heritage Center (NCHC)".

After a brief discussion, Chair Potter deferred further action to a future meeting.

b. UPDATE ON MOVE TO COMMUNITY CENTER (Chair Potter):

Chair Potter reported that he has been unable to set up a meeting with Director Petree, Parks & Recreation Department, regarding a final move date from the trailer and other logistics.

Consultant Grody volunteered to set a meeting for the following week.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the operational condition of the existing smoke detectors, which Chair Potter said could be further explored with Parks & Recreation staff.

c. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR THE COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (Chair Potter/Consultant Wilkman):

Mr. Wilkman reported that proposals had been received from Chuck Wilson and Theresa Hanley, which had been previously distributed to Commission Members with a rating sheet. Each Commission Member expressed his or her views on the respective proposals and stated a score for each. Overall, Ms. Hanley received a total score of 399 points to Mr. Wilson's 389 - a statistical tie. After considerable discussion on the respective merits of each candidate, the Commission Members decided to hear presentations from both candidates at a special meeting of the Commission, which was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

d. REVIEW OF INVENTORY LOANED TO NORCO AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (Chair Potter):

Due to lack of time, Chair Potter deferred this discussion to a future meeting.

6. CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSULTANT UPDATES:

a. PRESENTATION ON NAVY ACTIVITIES (Consultant Wilkman):

Consultant Wilkman reported on, and expressed his concerns about the Navy's efforts to renovate Building 511 to accommodate a Blimpie subway shop.

A discussion, about negotiating in good faith, ensued on this issue as well as the Navy's actions regarding the photovoltaic project.

Consultant Wilkman reported that City Manager Andy Okoro has requested a meeting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to discuss some of these matters, but that no response had yet been received.

b. RESURVEY OF NORCONIAN FOR WWII AND POST-WWII ERAS (Consultant Wilkman):

Consultant Wilkman reported that the examination of the site in the context of its WWII Era has been extremely promising. He noted that in addition to the hospital's very significant architecture, it is the only resort facility converted into a hospital that has maintained its integrity. He further pointed out that the hospital was one of just three sites in the U.S. where wheelchair basketball was employed for rehabilitation purposes, and the other two have been torn down. Consultant Wilkman reported that this section of the survey should be completed within the next several months.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFINGS:

a. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE (Potter/Wilkman):

Nothing new to report

b. COLLECTIONS ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (Stiller/Wilkman):

Nothing new to report

8. NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2015

9. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at **5:55 p.m.**