



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
2870 CLARK AVENUE
CONFERENCE ROOM "A"
May 12, 2015



Commission Members:

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

Staff Members:

Bill Wilkman, Preservation Consultant
Roger Grody, Economic Development Consultant
Theresa Hanley, Collections Management Consultant

CALL TO ORDER: **4:04 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 March 10, 2015

M/S Overstreet/Potter to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2015, with a correction.

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

- Special Meeting of April 7, 2015

M/S Overstreet/Sawyer to approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 7, 2015 as written.

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

4. DISCUSSIONS:

- a. Hosting a History Symposium – Focusing on the Norconian Hotel:

Chair Potter relayed to his colleagues that this idea came up in conversation in the community, and shared that he and Consultant Wilkman attended a successful event in Perris that consisted of speakers, lunch and a walking tour. His idea is that the Norco symposium would focus exclusively on the Norconian and that the event could be co-hosted by the Lake Norconian Club Foundation (LNCF). A registration fee could be charged to cover expenses, including lunch.

Discussion ensued on the merits of various aspects.

Consultant Hanley suggested that this could potentially be funded by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities, which might cover costs of speakers' honoraria and travel expenses, among other things, and could be associated with a veterans-oriented traveling exhibit called "War Comes Home." Ms. Hanley stated that the scholarly approach required by the funding agency could minimize the political complications.

After additional discussion, it was agreed that details and logistics could be developed by the Outreach Subcommittee.

b. Congressional Bill H.R. 135 – Military Land and National Defense Act

- To amend the National Historic Preservation Act to provide that if the head of the agency managing Federal property objects to the inclusion of certain property on the National Register or its designation as a National Historic Landmark for reasons of national security, the Federal property shall be neither included nor designated until the objection is withdrawn, and for other purposes.

Consultant Wilkman outlined the Military Land & National Defense Act, an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act that was introduced by Congressman Issa in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Consultant Grody distributed the three-page bill for review. The measure allows federal agencies, such as the U.S. Navy, to essentially veto any historic designation based on a claim that it would negatively affect national security.

Chair Potter also pointed out the bill includes a provision to delist properties already on National Register of Historic Places.

M/S Potter/Overstreet to recommend that the Norco City Council pass a resolution stating its opposition to H.R. 135.

AYES: Potter, Overstreet, Sawyer, Stiller

Motion Passed

5. LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE HISTORIC COLLECTION:

a. Progress Report on Capital Improvements/Supplies (Consultant Hanley):

Consultant Hanley distributed two documents generated from the April 7, 2015, special meeting “Visioning Session”. The first document reviewed the Commission’s aspirations for the Collection Room, who the prospective audience would consist of, and what community events were best suited for partnering with. It also reported on which topics the Commission is passionate about, and what kinds of fundraising events would be most achievable. The second was a draft Implementation Plan, which addressed physical updates and staffing of the Collection Room, as well as a timetable for proceeding. Ms. Hanley also suggested the Commission begin discussions on an official name for the room and collection.

Discussion ensued that encompassed fundraising efforts and whether or not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation was essential for successful future fundraising.

Consultant Hanley and Chair Potter reported on a meeting with Deputy City Manager/Parks & Recreation Director Brian Petree, also attended by Consultants Grody and Wilkman. Chair Potter reported that Parks & Recreation Department staff had cleared out more items from the trailer, depositing them into the new room at the Community Center.

Mr. Grody reported a balance of \$6,823 remaining in the capital improvement/supplies account for the new Collection Room and Ms. Hanley scheduled a time to meet with him and Mr. Wilkman to discuss expenditures required to be made prior to the close of the fiscal year.

Chair Potter provided staff with an estimate sheet for construction supplies and tools, which totaled approximately \$1,150.

b. UPDATE ON MOVE TO COMMUNITY CENTER:

Covered in discussion above

c. Proposal to Apply for California Archivist Archives Appreciation Award:

With support from Chuck Wilson, Preservation Consultant, and the Commission, Consultant Wilkman reported that he has submitted the application for this award to the Society of California Archivists. Winners will be announced soon.

6. CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSULTANT UPDATES

a. NAVY ACTIVITIES:

Consultant Wilkman reported that the City's objections to compromising a historic arched window at Building 511, where the Navy is accommodating a Blimpie Sub Shop, have been disregarded. Naval officials originally indicated a willingness to explore another option for entry to the building, which would not require removal of that significant architectural element, but it seems alternate designs were not examined.

b. Update on Resurvey of Norconian for WWII and Post-WWII Eras:

Consultant Wilkman reported that a draft survey of the Norconian property, in the context of its WWII Era, has been completed. It is a lengthy, meticulously source document that he believes will be difficult to challenge. He also noted that Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Bash was an extraordinary contributor to this document. Mr. Wilkman reiterated that in addition to the hospital's very significant architecture and its specialization in tuberculosis, rheumatic fever and other ailments, 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 that the other two have been torn down.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFINGS:

a. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE:

The Subcommittee will be meeting shortly to discuss the proposed symposium.

b. COLLECTIONS ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE:

The Subcommittee will be meeting shortly.

8. COMMISSION MEMBER/CONSULTANT/STAFF COMMENTS: None

9. NEXT MEETINGS: Due to conflict with Commission Members' schedules, the next Regular Meeting scheduled for July 14, 2015 has been rescheduled for July 7, 2015

10. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at **5:56 p.m.**