



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
2870 CLARK AVENUE
CONFERENCE ROOM "A"
July 7, 2015



Commission Members:

Matthew Potter – Chair
Diana Stiller – Vice Chair
Patricia Overstreet – Commission Member
Mark Sawyer – Commission Member
Teresa Edwards – Commission Member

Staff Members:

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

CALL TO ORDER: **4:01 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **Member Overstreet**

1. INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE OF NEW MEMBER:

Newly appointed Teresa Edwards introduced herself to the Commission, indicating she has a strong background in art, art history, and museum work.

City Clerk Cheryl Link provided the Oath of Office for re-appointed Member Matthew Potter, and newly appointed Member Teresa Edwards for their service on the Historic Preservation Commission.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

M/S Sawyer/Overstreet to re-appoint Chair Potter to the position of Chair for the fiscal year 2015/2016.

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

M/S Overstreet/Potter to re-appoint Vice Chair Stiller to the position of Vice Chair for the fiscal year 2015/2016.

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Bash congratulated newly-appointed Commission Member Edwards, and re-appointed Chair Potter and Vice Chair Stiller. He indicated that the current City Council was very pro-preservation, and encouraged the Commission to continue being aggressive in its goal of preserving Norco's history. He also indicated that the recently appointed State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) should be much more fair and responsible than her predecessor, which is good news for Norco.

4. TO BE READ BY 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."

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Regular Meeting of May 12, 2015

M/S Overstreet/Sawyer to approve the minutes of regular meeting of May 12, 2015, as written.

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

6. DISCUSSIONS:

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

Chair Potter indicated that a one-day symposium, at a yet-to-be-determined date in 2016, will be a long-term planning effort by this Commission.

Consultant Hanley suggested that it should be held on a date that is significant to the hotel's history; and reported that after research, a California Council on Humanities Grant would not be feasible.

Vice Chair Stiller suggested that there be an outreach to local teachers and students.

Chair Potter stated that further planning will be delegated to the Outreach Subcommittee.

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

Consultant Grody distributed copies of the Norco City Council Resolution No. 2015-17, recently approved by City Council at its meeting on May 20, 2015. It was reported that Bill H.R. 135 had yet to progress very far but still posed a serious threat to local preservation efforts and warranted monitoring.

7. LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE HISTORIC COLLECTIONS:

- a. Progress Report on Capital Improvements/Supplies

Consultant Grody reported that the funds allocated in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget had been essentially exhausted, with approximately \$6,823 of equipment and supplies ordered and/or already received.

Chair Potter reported that he has completed the painting of the storage room located in the Collection room.

- b. Update on Move to Community Center (Chair Potter)

Chair Potter reported that he had spoken with Parks & Recreation staff, finalizing a final moving date of July 13, 2015. The remainder of the Commission found that date acceptable and made arrangements to meet.

- c. Update on California Archivist Appreciation Award Application

Consultant Wilkman reported that he had not received any news on this matter, noting that Consultant Chuck Wilson, who had recommended that this application be submitted, has been pre-occupied with a family illness.

8. CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSULTANT UPDATES (Consultant Wilkman):

a. Navy Activities

Consultant Wilkman reported on the recent quarterly meeting between the City and the Navy, which Commission Member Sawyer also attended. The Navy disclosed to the City, as obligated by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, that a few trees around the Pavilion will be removed. In a follow up remark on the Navy's attempt to locate a Blimpie Sub Shop in Building 511, Consultant Wilkman stated that the Navy has indicated that the historic arched window, where an entrance will be created, will be placed in storage, which is a minor victory for the City. The Navy also discussed plans to build a new storage building on the site of the former hotel laundry, which was a very historic and attractive structure. Consultant Wilkman believes that the new building be built to be consistent with the look of the original laundry building, thereby honoring the original architecture.

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/Hospital Era has been completed. He said that his intent was to submit it to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a group that might be more objective than the former SHPO. He further stated that if the Commission comes up with new evidence, the Advisory Council could encourage the Navy to change its position. Consultant Wilkman is also moving forward on the Post-WWII Era Survey, but believes the Hospital Era may make for a stronger case.

c. Briefing on meetings at offices of Senators Boxer and Feinstein

Consultant Grody distributed letters from the City to representatives of both California U.S. Senators, and indicated they will be meeting with them shortly. To date, the response has been relatively encouraging.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFINGS:

a. Outreach Subcommittee (Chair Potter/Consultant Wilkman)

Chair Potter distributed an organizational chart for the Commission's Comprehensive Outreach Program and encouraged Commission Members to make any revisions or additions.

b. Collection Advisory Subcommittee (Vice Chair Stiller/Consultant Wilkman)

Nothing to report; the subcommittee will be meeting shortly.

10. COMMISSION MEMBER/CONSULTANT/STAFF COMMENTS: **None**

11. NEXT MEETING: September 8, 2015 (note: City Hall Closed Sept 7, 2015-Labor Day)

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at **5:40 p.m.**