



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CONFERENCE ROOM "A" — 2870 CLARK AVENUE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 11, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Dixon called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Chairperson Dixon, Vice Chairman Potter and Commission Members Sawyer and Jacquemain.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Commission Member Bacon

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Groves, Preservation Consultant Wilkman, Economic Development Specialist Grody

GUESTS: City Historian Snow
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commission Member Jacquemain
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS: No public comments or questions received.
5. 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."
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chairperson Dixon indicated a request to amend the agenda, adding an item for the election of Chair and Vice Chair. M/S Potter/Sawyer to amend the agenda, adding the election of officers as the next order of business. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Member Jacquemain nominating Chairperson Dixon and Vice Chairman Potter to continue as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Chairperson Dixon expressed her appreciation but stated she believed it was Vice Chairman Potter's time to chair the Commission. She subsequently moved that Vice Chairman Potter be nominated for Chair and Member Bacon for Vice Chair. Member Jacquemain withdrew her original motion and seconded Chairperson Dixon's motion, and it was passed unanimously. With the Commission's thanks, Member Dixon turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairman Potter.
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: M/S Dixon/Sawyer to approve the minutes of May 2, 2011. Motion passed unanimously.
8. DRAFT HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY (Consultant Wilkman): Consultant Wilkman indicated that the Historic Resources Survey was well underway and that he was meeting shortly with the field surveyor to discuss the categorization of resources. He explained that it was important that our survey did not sacrifice credibility by being too generous with its survey results. He further reported that Norco differs from other

cities in that many of its historic resources are not necessarily architecturally impressive but that their significance is genuine nonetheless. He briefly discussed the "6L" category, which includes many properties that may not be technically eligible for historic designation, but still merit attention. Another category, "7R," includes properties that may ultimately warrant designation, but cannot be seen well enough from the street to make a determination without further research. Consultant Wilkman reported that the Context Statement and draft Historic Resources Survey would be submitted to the State by July 18, 2011. In response to a question from Chairman Potter, it was reported that a few potential historic district designations exist in the Norco, but the cases for those are not very strong. City Historian Snow asked about the district that includes the Norconian, on the Navy and State properties, and Consultant Wilkman explained that this particular survey covers everything but the Norconian.

9. CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT STATUS (Consultant Wilkman): Consultant Wilkman reported that the State Office of Historic Preservation announced awards from the federal Historic Preservation Fund to CLG-designated cities, and that Norco will receive \$12,000 to extend the City's Context Statement and conduct survey work on properties from 1946-1966. Member Dixon and City Manager Groves congratulated Consultant Wilkman on his outstanding efforts in securing this grant. Member Sawyer asked if there was a list of the properties surveyed to date, as he would like to view some of them. Consultant Wilkman agreed to send a list to all Members. A lengthy discussion ensued on the process for pulling building and demolition permits, and whether staff consults any historical data prior to granting such permits. Consultant Wilkman advised the Commission that building permits were considered ministerial but that demolition permits could be discretionary if a list of designated properties was adopted by City Council. City Manager Groves reminded the Commission that it had accomplished a great deal in just two-and-a-half years, and that the survey being conducted was the first step toward arriving at a list of designated properties that could be saved from unwanted demolition. Another discussion, initiated by Member Potter, involved the process by which a property owner or group of owners could apply for designation, and Consultant Wilkman indicated he was working on an application form and list of criteria for residents.

10. OTHER MATTERS:

A. COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Member Dixon updated the Commission on a request from Norco Eastvale Rotary Club for a presentation on the Norconian, preferably on July 28. Chairman Potter added that he will be making a presentation at the Horseman's Association on July 21 and that he will contact the Kiwanis Club, which also requested a presentation. Member Dixon suggested that the PowerPoint presentation and script be emailed to all members. She also inquired about the status of designating some trails as historic resources, and Consultant Wilkman indicated that he had written up some criteria for trails and recommended a meeting with Council Member Bash.

B. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

- Consultant Wilkman shared with the Commission the success of the Context Statement workshop held in Norco on June 29, 2011, sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation. He noted that the guests were awed by the tour of the Norconian.

C. CITY HISTORIAN

- City Historian Snow reported on his continued progress of digitizing archived documents for eventual display on the website. An input form has been created and 15 categories established.

D. CITY MANAGER

- City Manager Groves reported on the successful adoption of a City budget for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, and the ramifications of the State of California budget and two associated bills signed by Governor Brown that effectively eliminate redevelopment agencies. She spoke in detail about Agency programs and staff being discontinued or jeopardized. She also explained the “pay to play” option that redevelopment agencies were given and the potential outcomes of expected legal challenges from the California Redevelopment Association. The City Manager reiterated the City’s commitment to historic preservation. She next discussed the proposed development a major distribution facility at the site of the Egg Ranch, reminding the Commission that it is a legally allowed use and the applicant is entitled to due process. She went on to say that anybody can be heard at an upcoming neighborhood meeting or Planning Commission meeting simply as an interested resident. Issues of historic preservation—such as the presence of one or two historic homes on the site identified by Member Dixon—could be addressed by the Chair if desired.

11. NEXT MEETING: October 3, 2011.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

/rg-78956