



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CONFERENCE ROOM "A" — 2870 CLARK AVENUE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Potter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Chairman Potter, Commission Members Dixon, Jacquemain and Sawyer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairman Bacon

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

GUESTS PRESENT: City Historian Snow

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commission Member Dixon
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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: M/S Dixon/Sawyer to approve the October 3, 2011 Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
7. HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY (Consultant Wilkman): Consultant Wilkman reported that the recommendations generated from the approved Context Statement and Historic Resources Survey will be forwarded to the City Manager, and subsequently to the Commission for review, comments and changes. After the Commission completes its review, it will go to the City Council for approval, then modified as necessary. The report, which covers properties built from 1926-1946, consists of a Context Statement and a Survey of approximately 350 properties of which a small number, including a potential historic district, are recommended for historical designation. Some meet the requirements for local designation and some for State designation. None are recommended for national designation, but Mr. Wilkman pointed out that the Lake Norconian Club is already listed on the National Register. He said he believed it was very important to designate all City-owned properties immediately, since those are less problematic than dealing with private property owners. Commission Member Jacquemain noted that sometimes properties are significant due to the historic contribution of their owners, but that this is often difficult to ascertain through field research. Mr. Wilkman responded that this is an inherent weakness of this type of survey, but that research for the Context Statement often reveals such information.

8. CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT (Consultant Wilkman): Consultant Wilkman reported that he is now prepared to begin work on a new Context Statement for properties constructed from 1946-1966, a draft of which is due to the State February 7, 2012. He indicated that this period of the City's history is fascinating, as the community changed dramatically and continued to reinvent itself.
9. ARCHIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman Potter): Chairman Potter commenced a discussion on the most recent meeting of the Archive Subcommittee and asked Commission Member Jacquemain to provide a summary. She reported that the meeting took place at the Lake Norconian Foundation trailer near the Norco Public Library. City Historian Snow guided the Subcommittee members on a tour of the three-room trailer, as well as the Historic Museum occupying a room of the Library. She commented that some of the displays could be more meaningful with some better-researched descriptions. She did not, however, find the trailer to be an unacceptable place for the documents and artifacts. Minutes of the on-site meeting, prepared by staff, were distributed. Chairman Potter indicated that the Subcommittee had requested a draft Council Resolution that would, based on the City Manager's comments, provide the Commission the authority to oversee the preservation of all historic Norco materials. He distributed a staff-generated Resolution for the Commission to review. Economic Development Specialist Grody indicated that the Resolution was intentionally silent on the potentially controversial issue of ownership. In response to City Historian Snow's concern over the ownership issue, City Manager Groves noted that the Resolution serves the purpose of getting the Commission some official standing before attempting to work out the more problematic relationship with the Norco Historical Society. She recommended that the Commission get this authority first, and it can return to Council at a later date for future direction, after more fully investigating the situation. Mr. Potter requested that action be taken on the draft Resolution and the only requested modification was raised by Commission Member Jacquemain, who said the word "relocate" in the fifth paragraph should be replaced with the word, "preserve." Commission Member Jacquemain moved to approve the Resolution with her requested amendment. Commission Member Dixon seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. City Manager Groves indicated that if the question arose, it should be stated that the City Historian, although not a member of the Commission, has traditionally been available as a resource to the Commission. Commission Member Potter suggested that the Archive Subcommittee meet as soon as possible, and a date of Thursday, January 19, at 4:00 PM was agreed upon.
10. OTHER MATTERS:
 - A. COMMISSION MEMBERS
 - Commission Member Jacquemain reported that the National Preservation Institute was sponsoring some excellent seminars and workshops this year. Commission Member Dixon inquired as to the available funding for workshops, given the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency. The City Manager advised her that she would look into it. Commission Member

Jacquemain reminded the Commission that she and Mr. Wilkman were qualified to present a workshop of their own.

- Chairman Potter raised the prospect of the Commission participating in outreach to local schools to provide a preservationist perspective in local curriculums. The City Manager supported the idea and suggested a letter from the Chairman go out to local school administrators.

B. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

- Mr. Wilkman reported that the California Preservation Foundation annual conference is being held in Oakland in May.

C. CITY HISTORIAN

- Mr. Snow indicated that he would like to begin posting some interesting historical facts on the City website. Staff reported that a new tab entitled "Norco History" had already been set up and that additional information would be welcome.

D. CITY MANAGER

- City Manager Groves encouraged all Commissioners to register online as City volunteers. Staff will send out an email reminding them of how to do it. She also commended the Commission for doing some very good work in a relatively short amount of time.

11. NEXT MEETING: April 2, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

/rg-80245