



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CONFERENCE ROOM "A" — 2870 CLARK AVENUE
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 26, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Potter called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Chairperson Potter, Vice Chairperson Bacon, Commission Members Dixon, Jacquemain and Sawyer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

GUESTS: City Historian Snow, UCR student/intern Ben Jenkins

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commission Vice Chairperson Bacon
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS: No public comments or questions received, but Ben Jenkins, an M.A./Ph.D. candidate at University of California, Riverside, was introduced as an intern anxious to assist with archiving.
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. A. REVIEW OF PHASE ONE HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY (Consultant Wilkman): Consultant Wilkman presented an overview of the Historic Resources Survey, which is ready to be adopted by City Council, subject to any changes requested by the Commission. Mr. Wilkman explained that this Phase One Survey covers properties constructed prior to 1946 and serves as a manual or handbook that can be valuable to Planning and Building staff working the counter at City Hall, as well as for the public. It provides a thorough history of Norco from its very first human settlers through 1945. The history is broken out into four distinct periods or "contexts" and further broken out into various attributes or "themes." The report then identifies specific criteria for the designation of environmental features, structures and infrastructure as historic sites or resources on the national, state and local level.

Of the more than 300 properties surveyed, the report identified no sites or structures that met the criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (the Lake Norconian Club, which was already designated, was not included in this survey). Five (5) resources met the criteria for State of California designation and 22 met the criteria for local designation. One (1) potential historic district was identified, centered at the

intersection of Sixth Street & Hamner Avenue, the original center of Norco. City Manager Groves indicated that development of that district, which would most likely be included in a Hospitality Zone, would encourage the preservation and integration of significant structures. A discussion ensued on the merits of designating certain horse trails as historic resources, and Mr. Wilkman indicated that most trails would fall in the Phase Two Survey, covering properties constructed after 1945. Vice Chairperson Bacon reinforced the concept that the trails are part of what makes Norco unique, and that protection of historic trails must be considered. Mr. Wilkman suggested the Historic Preservation Commission should recommend that the City Council adopt the Phase One Historic Resources Survey and that publicly-owned properties be designated first as landmarks. After that, private property owners may be approached for voluntary designation and the Council may wish to consider some financial incentives for designation. After a short discussion, a consensus was reached that the Commission should recommend that the City Council adopt the Survey, to be formally acted upon at the next regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission on July 17, 2012.

B. DISCUSSION OF ARCHIVING ITEMS

- i. Norco Facilities (City Manager Groves): The City Manager reported that the trailer currently housing many of the City's historic artifacts and documents sits on City property but that the trailer itself was purchased with Redevelopment Agency funds. At the June 20, 2012 meeting of the Oversight Board of the Successor Agency for the Norco Community Development Agency, the City requested that the trailer ownership be transferred from the Agency to the City of Norco, based on its public purpose. The request was approved. Ms. Groves further reported on her attempts to have the Norco Historical Society (NHS) respond to the inventory of items created by the Commission, so that ownership of all catalogued items could be established. She indicated that the NHS President, Velma Hickey, passed away during the process, but that NHS Executive Board Member Mary Bucha responded to the City Manager's requests, claiming every single item was owned by NHS. However, Ms. Bucha did not attach any documentation to substantiate her assertions of ownership. She has been asked to do so in a subsequent letter, said the City Manager, who also reported that City Historian Snow has been asked to review the inventory.

City Manager Groves noted that the Norco Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center is interested in the Museum space. Mr. Snow suggested transferring some of the contents to the trailer, but Commissioner Dixon objected, maintaining that the trailer is no longer a safe and secure facility for the storage of historic artifacts and documents.

- ii. Corona Facilities (Chairperson Potter): Mr. Potter presented a slide show on the items he and Commissioner Jacquemain catalogued at the Museum space and discussed the offer from the City of Corona, which has space available in a room

adjacent to the Corona Public Library's subterranean parking garage for the storage of Norco artifacts and documents. He described the generous terms of the offer (no cost for an indefinite time period) and the security of the location, as well as Heritage Room librarian Jennifer Marlatt's offer to allow Norco Commissioners' and researchers' use of the Heritage Room for processing, as well as storage of temperature-sensitive items. The Commission agreed this was a generous offer that should be pursued on an interim basis. On a motion by Vice Chairperson Bacon, seconded by Commissioner Dixon, the Commission voted unanimously to have Chairperson Potter and staff draft a letter to Ms. Marlatt, to be considered at the Commission's next regular meeting of July 17, 2012.

7. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Potter adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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