



**MINUTES**  
CITY OF NORCO  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
CONFERENCE ROOM "A" — 2870 CLARK AVENUE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 21, 2013

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bacon called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Chair Bacon, Vice Chair Potter, Commissioners Dixon and Sawyer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Jacquemain

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

GUESTS: Stephanie Gwynn of Norco Historical Society; Greg Newtown of Lake Norconian Club Foundation

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Sawyer
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS: None
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. CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION LETTER TO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (Vice Chair Potter): Mr. Potter presented some background information on the letter, reporting that a letter-writing campaign was recommended at the recent Norconian Strategic Plan meeting. Stakeholders were encouraged to write to SHPO to express concerns over the California Department of Corrections' (DOC's) stewardship of the Lake Norconian Club property. Referring to the draft letter, the Vice Chair explained he thought it was important to present considerable context and background in the letter. While the SHPO herself may be familiar with the issues surrounding the hotel, some of the people copied on the letter may not be. The Vice Chair explained it was important to emphasize that with the closing of the prison approaching, it was important to consider the future value of the hotel and that the DOC was causing the property's value to diminish. When the property goes to surplus, it should be delivered in good condition to enhance any future potential for heritage tourism.

Mr. Wilkman praised the letter and had nothing to add, and Commissioner Sawyer also had no comments or modifications. Commissioner Dixon had some minor revisions, which she submitted to staff. Her biggest issue was the closing paragraph, which she thought should be more assertive. Chair Bacon recounted a visit to Sacramento several years ago, at which DOC officials emphasized that the primary responsibility of the wardens was to keep their respective prisoners safe and that preservation was a very low priority. The Chair praised the letter and appreciated the background information in it. After some discussion, consensus for a new closing paragraph was reached, one that emphasized that the prison must live up to its obligations. The Commission agreed that the following people be copied on the letter: U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Congressman Calvert, Governor Brown, California State Senators Roth and Emmerson, California State Assemblyman Linder, and Supervisor Tavaglione. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve the letter with amendments, which was seconded by Commissioner Sawyer, and passed 4-0.

7. REPORT ON LAKE NORCONIAN CLUB FOUNDATION GRANT (Consultant Wilkman): Mr. Wilkman reported on the approved \$6,000 grant that involves the survey, evaluation and preparation of a management plan in regard to the City of Norco's historic collection. He and archivist Chuck Wilson visited the trailer and a room at City Hall where some items are stored to visually assess the situation, but were unable to visit the collection maintained by Council Member Kevin Bash. Mr. Wilkman indicated that their initial conclusion was that the trailer was reasonably well organized, with many items properly shelved and appearing to be easily transportable. Commissioner Dixon asked Mr. Wilkman how they arrived at this assessment when just a few months ago they indicated the trailer was disorganized and in disarray. Mr. Wilkman suggested that first report may have been influenced by the presence of numerous empty boxes, and that Mr. Wilson was able to look at it now from a different perspective. He noted that Mr. Wilson was impressed with the Commission's existing Collection Development Policy, to which he made only minor changes. Mr. Wilkman also suggested convening the first meeting of the Review Committee, consisting of both Historic Preservation Commissioners and members of the Lake Norconian Club Foundation board. In response to Vice Chair Potter's question, Mr. Wilkman said he and Mr. Wilson appear to be on schedule for deliverables required in the contract. Greg Newton, representing the Foundation, had some specific question on the Collection Development Policy, which can be pursued in greater detail when the Review Committee meets.
8. NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting, July 2, 2013.
9. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Bacon adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.