



**Historical Commission Regular Meeting
Matheson Chapel, La Sierra University
4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, CA 92515**

MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Charlotte Fox, District II, Chair
Marc Hendon, Sr., District III
Robert Lindquist, District III
Hal Rover, District IV (late 1:45 p.m.)
John Worden, District V

Members Excused:

Charlene Cleary, District I, Vice Chair
Darell Farnbach, District III
Gerda Hook, District IV
Muriel Schwartz, District V

Staff Present:

Paul Frandsen, General Manager, Regional Park & Open-Space District
Lori Norris, Secretary, Regional Park & Open-Space District

Guests Present:

Jacquelin Dooley, Jensen Alvarado Ranch Associates
Marjorie Page, Jensen Alvarado Ranch Associates
Christine Cales, La Sierra University
Vicki Long, Wildomar Historical Society
Leone Cody, San Timoteo Schoolhouse
Jerry Cody, San Timoteo Schoolhouse & Park District Advisory Commission
Frank Hall, Norco City Councilman

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Commissioners, staff and guests made self-introductions. Christine Cales welcomed the Commission. Chairperson Fox thanked Ms. Cales for allowing the Commission to use the facility.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

M/S/C (Worden/Lindquist)

The minutes of the November 17, 2005, meeting were approved as corrected.

None opposed.

Correct spelling for ~~appoesed~~ opposed in item 1.0.

3.0 Public Comment:

Vicki Long: Ms Long reported that she worked with the developer and the Brown farmhouse was purchased. The house now needs to be moved. The plan is to use the farmhouse as a museum for Wildomar. She reported that the information presented at the recent history symposium helped to educate her in working with the developer. The Wildomar Historical Society plans to publish a book on the Wildomar area through Arcadia Publishing.

4.0 Commissioner Reports

Marc Hendon, District III; Rob Lindquist, District III; John Worden, District V; Hal Rover, District IV – Nothing new to report.

Charolette Fox, District II – Chairperson Fox presented handouts to the Commissioners. Extra handouts will be mailed to the Commissioners not present today. The materials included:

- (a) A flow chart on how the preservation/planning process works.
- (b) History Day Contest information. The Commissioners were encouraged to participate as judges. The contest will be on March 18 at Corona High School.
 - Chairperson Fox would like to distribute certificates for the History Day winners on behalf of the Historical Commission.
- (c) A flyer for the Congress of History 2006 Conference titled “From Baldwins to Boomers: Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of San Diego County’s Great Railway & Real Estate Boom, from 1881 to 1890”. The conference is March 3 & 4.
- (d) An order form for the book entitled “Images of America, Temecula” on sale from the Vail Ranch Association.

Chairperson Fox reported that she assisted the citizens from the Corona Historical Society, and they were able to convince Congressman Calvert to withdraw his proposal to change the name of Prado Dam.

There is an improvement project to Interstate 215 and State 74 crossing. Caltrans is looking for any historical background research as part of their EIR/EIS process. She asked Paul Price for additional help to review the area in question and respond to the consultant, Ethan Allen Chase. Commissioner Lindquist offered additional research.

5.0 Park District General Manager/Staff Reports

Mr. Frandsen requested that Councilman Hall provide his report for item 9.1. The Commission agreed. The minutes will follow in agenda order, see item 9.1 for Mr. Hall’s report.

5.1 Capital Projects: Mr. Frandsen and Mr. Cody met with the City of Beaumont for funding from Riverside County Transportation Commission for approximately \$230,000 to use on the trail from Noble Creek to the San Timoteo Schoolhouse. The money will also assist in restoration of the inside of the schoolhouse, interpretive panels and landscaping.

Regarding the Jensen-Alvarado Ranch and Museum, the historic engineers are going to check the water movement around the winery museum foundation. The money has been set aside for the architectural firm to tell what the best method is to repair the winery foundation to keep it historically accurate.

5.2 Other items of interest

HPO Gettis left to join the City of Riverside as their Historic Preservation Officer. The recruitment for an HPO is on hold until approval to pay at a higher rate is reviewed. It will probably be a few months before an HPO is hired. A decision needs to be made

regarding the symposium. Construction project planning reviews will be contracted out to a certified preservation professional until an HPO is hired.

6.0 Archives Commission

No report due to Muriel Schwartz' absence.

7.0 Historical Commission Publication Subcommittee

No report due to Muriel Schwartz' absence.

8.0 Old Business

8.1 Publications and Symposium Chair

Chairperson Fox reported that the Historical Commission has grown to the point where the Publications Subcommittee is an entire function on its own. Commissioner Schwartz has done a good job, and the Chair has not spoken to Commissioner Schwartz on whether she wants to continue as Chair of the Publication Subcommittee. Chairperson Fox turned the floor over to Commissioner Hendon.

Commissioner Hendon noted that the book Riverman Desertman will be reprinted. The forward for the book needs to be updated. Commissioner Hendon will write the update. Secretary Frandsen reported that the bids have been obtained and the books are ready to order once the forward is rewritten.

- The Chair and the staff will approve the forward; it doesn't need to come back to the Commission for approval.

8.2 Newsletter Update

Commissioner Rover presented the update for a news and events letter. Most of the grant foundations request a three-year experience record before funding. Seed money is needed to get started. Non-profit status is needed and incorporation is not a problem. Commissioner Rover met with the Regional Access Program Foundation in the Desert and there is a central location with lots of non-profits. People are needed to help. There are currently three other people in addition to Commissioner Rover who want to get work on this project.

- Commissioner Rover will ask Ann Japenger to prepare a sample news and events letter and will send out a "would you be interested" form to a list of historical societies, museums and galleries.

Commissioner Lindquist noted that the High Country journals are being started again. Commissioner Fox noted that John Hunneman will continue the tradition of the High Country journals because they were so popular. The issues that are out of print will be reprinted, and new issues will be written. Some of the stories are fiction and some are factual.

Commissioner Worden commented that the Riverside Municipal Museum recently changed their name to the Metropolitan Museum and is expanding. He suggested that they may have an interest in reaching out to other segments and they already have a non-profit association. He recommended contacting Vince Moses, the director, to see if the newsletter may fit to work with them.

8.3 Awards Program

A quorum is present, but some members are missing. Some of the decisions for the symposium this year include the Awards Program nominations. So far, two applications were received. The program awards will be presented at the 2006 symposium.

Chairperson Fox recommended the symposium be a half-day event this year, possibly in September or October. The event could start registration at 9:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:30 a.m., include lunch and end at 2:00 p.m. Depending on where the event is held, a tour could be arranged following the symposium. Chairperson Fox cannot chair the symposium, but is willing to chair the Awards Program. Commissioner Worden recommended the symposium be planned when the HPO is hired and able to help. Chairperson Fox would like the symposium to be held, even if it is held with all volunteer help. Commissioner Schwartz needs to be contacted to see if she wants to Chair the symposium for 2006.

M/S/C: (Lindquist\Henderson)

To have the 2006 symposium as half day. Chairperson Fox will chair the Awards Program. None opposed.

Awards Programs forms are available from Lori Norris at Park headquarters. The two nominations received to date were distributed. There are a few days left to receive other applications. Award review comments should be directed to Chairperson Fox.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Norconian Hotel/Correctional Facility

Councilman Frank Hall from Norco shared a picture of the Norconian. Most people are not aware of the facility. The hotel was built in the 1920s, primarily as a resort. It became popular with the Hollywood set. A movie called "Top Speed" was filmed there. During WWII it was turned into a hospital. It later became a Veteran Hospital. It was then turned over to the state of California for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center run by the state prison. There are approximately 5,000 inmates. The prison houses both men and women.

The federal government owns the pavilion on the lake, and the Navy uses it for weapons analysis. They do not occupy the lake and the club, although they do use them. The hotel is behind the prison gate.

The facility is on both lists for state and federal historical sites. The assembly members carried a bill through the state legislature allowing them to transfer ownership to the City of Norco. The bill passed, but it required a usage plan that must be approved by the state. The deadline was December 31, 2005. The plan is not created yet. There is difficulty with both parking and access to the facility. A five to ten year extension was requested. The Norco Valley Historical Society has been asked to come up with some ideas. Engineers say it will cost \$40 to \$80 million dollars to retrofit the facility. It is deteriorating, but there haven't been any problems with vandalism or graffiti.

A viable plan for funding is needed. One suggestion is to emphasize the naval hospital period to the veterans for potential support. Roof repair needs to be done now. The recently vacated administration building is now deteriorating. There is an Olympic-sized pool. The property could be used as a conference center or for the film industry to use. There are some auxiliary buildings

- Mr. Hall will check to see if a tour can be arranged for the Historical Commissioners and Park staff. Security clearance is needed.

The project needs to be done in phases and a study prepared on the cost of each phase. Commissioner Fox commended the City of Norco for their involvement in this project.

- If anyone thinks of further recommendations, they should contact the Norco City Clerk or management.

Another suggestion is to host a yearly gala event to raise money. The Greyston Mansion in Beverly Hills raised money this way by having the design industry design a room each time. The designers paint and repair. They also rent to the film industry. They hold music and garden events. Mr. Hall reported that he is attempting to allocate funds for an author to write the history of the facility, for sale at a low price, to make the public aware of the facility.

- Mr. Hall will ask the Norco Valley Historical Society to provide a written report of their progress to the Riverside County Historical Commission towards the end of the year.

NOTE: Chairperson Fox requested Christie Cales, from the La Sierra University, to provide some history of the facility used for today's meeting. Matheson Chapel was named in honor of Edwards Mathewson, Dean of Men from 1950 to 1960. One of the chapel's major uses is for performing arts presentations.

There is an historic one-room schoolhouse on campus that was brought from San Pasqual Valley. The university plans to open it as a living history museum for local residents to visit and learn more about history of education. The schoolhouse was moved to La Sierra University in approximately 2001. The building dates back to 1898. The San Pasqual Academy boarding academy was built up around it. It serviced grades 1 through 10.

10.0 Time & Place of Next Meeting – March 16, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at Highland Springs Resort.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. A tour of the Natural History Museum and the Stahl Center Museum of Culture was available following the meeting.

Paul Frandsen, Secretary

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