



Historical Commission Regular Meeting
The Home Interiors of Mrs. 144 (Formerly "The Chimes")
201 W. Graham Avenue, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530-3739

M I N U T E S

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Members Present:

Joyce Hohenadl, District I
Charlene Cleary, District I
Charolette Fox, District II, Chair
Robert Lindquist, District III
Darell Farnbach, District III
Marc Hendon, Sr., District III
Hal Rover, District IV

Members Excused:

Gerda Hook, District IV
Muriel Schwartz, District V
John Worden, District V

Staff Present:

Paul Frandsen, General Manager, Regional Park & Open-Space District
Keith Herron, Historic Preservation Officer
Lori Norris, Secretary, Regional Park & Open-Space District

Guests Present:

Tim O'Leary, *Press Enterprise*
Debbie Seracini, Arcadia Publishing
Debra Stephens, for Helen Gross, owner of "The Chimes"

Note: Some items were presented out of order, and reflect the order of the agenda.

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. All members present were on time. Commissioner Fox thanked Debra Stephens for hosting the meeting.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

On page 5, item 5.1, "...the Jensen-Alvarado Ranch Association Associates."

M/S/C (Farnbach/Lindquist)

The January 18, 2007, meeting minutes were accepted as corrected.

3.0 Public Comment

Debbie Seracini from Arcadia Publishing introduced herself and provided an update on new Riverside related books. She requested help in recruiting the desert communities to write some books. The books are a good fundraiser. They are sold at stores such as Borders, Barnes & Nobles, Amazon, Costco, and small mom and pop stores. They accept all topics. The books require 180 to 240 photos with 70% required to be older than year 1960.

4.0 Commissioner Reports:

Hal Rover, District IV: Commissioner Rover reported that he has been scanning pictures from the property of Cliff Henderson, the founder of Palm Desert City and his

movie star wife, Marian Marsh. Mr. Henderson was big on aviation. He owned the Pan Pacific Auditorium in 1935 to 1945. They found a box of original movie scripts.

Marc Hendon, District III: No report.

Rob Lindquist, District III: Commissioner Lindquist is trying to find out what happened to a petroglyph rock on private property in South Hemet. It was destroyed to build a pool. He doesn't know if it had been inventoried or not.

Joyce Hohenadl, District I: Commissioner Hohenadl is working on obtaining historic landmark designation for the "Princess" boat. They are working on making their group a non-profit foundation. She wrote to the Catalina Conservancy; the Santa Catalina Island Company; and Jeanne Peterson, the curator at the Catalina Museum. They provided materials and information about the Elsinore Princess. She also wrote to the L.A. Maritime Museum in San Pedro, who has boxes of artifacts from the boat builder. They found three drawings that look like blue prints for the glass bottom boats. They will review the artifacts to see if there is anything specific to the Princess. In addition, they will call the Merchant Ships of the US Registry to look for history on the Princess. Commissioner Hohenadl will make an appointment to go to the L.A. Maritime Museum after they complete their research.

Gordon Craig, with Classic Pacific Developers, bought the land around the Mercado Adobe. He plans to keep three of the original Mercado Adobe rooms for their new housing development to be used for sales offices. When the project sells out, they will turn it over to the homeowners association or to the city to use for functions. No eating will be allowed in them. The developer is also going to try and save the old palm trees around the building as well.

Charlene Cleary, District I: Commissioner Cleary updated the Commission on the Military Academy. The security guard left. Local neighbors plan to guard the facility and do some repairs. Commissioner Hohenadl added that Nancy Daniels, of the Garret Corporation, telephoned her and said they finished a study on the Military Academy, and they plan to present the site plan for the property and it appears that only four rooms can be saved: the entrance, the ballroom, the library and the dining room. It was reported that water has been seeping under the foundation. Commissioner Cleary reminded all that Wayne MacDonald did a survey on the Academy that said that the building was well built.

- Nancy Daniels, from the Garret Corporation, will be invited to attend the July meeting to provide a 15-minute presentation.

The historical eucalyptus trees on Grand Avenue were removed for widening of the freeway. There have been a lot of calls about that.

The Historical Society met with the concessionaire, and they agree that the Root House at the park will be fenced, and they are going to try to preserve it. Laverne Burns has done

research and has a report on the home. There are still several Root family members in the valley and twelve are buried in the historical cemetery.

➤ Commissioner Cleary will provide an update at the next meeting.

The historic lights have been installed and lit.

Darell Farnbach, District III: Commissioner Farnbach reported that vandalism has decreased at the Vail Ranch site since they put up signs stating "Historic restoration is going on behind these walls. In case of vandalism, please call the police at the number provided. For information call Darell Farnbach and his number." The signs are large. Payroll records for Vail Ranch from 1905-1944 were donated to VaRRA. County EDA reports that the lease for the implement barn museum should be ready in April, and they can then put in their history center they have been working on for the past three years.

Charolette Fox, District II: Commissioner Fox introduced Keith Herron, new County HPO, and asked him to provide some of his background information. He came from Illinois. In Illinois he worked for the Historic Preservation Agency for 27 years. He worked with the historic sites division. He started as an interpreter and worked as a site manager for a couple of house museums, and then worked in the administrative offices for the unit developing public programs and doing the preservation for all of the capital programs. He is enjoying learning the history of Riverside County and looks forward to working with the Commissioners, and to provide whatever help and support that he can. He is available to attend local historical society meetings.

Commissioner Fox presented a sample of the award certificates the Historical Commission provided for the County's History Day awards program for March 24.

The new Park Headquarters building, The Carriage House, ribbon cutting is May 2, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. The volunteer\employee appreciation lunch will be held on May 9, 2007, at noon.

The Dorland Art Colony applied for a California Cultural and Historical endowment capital grant for building and construction to recover from the fire. They have some wonderful plans to rebuild.

Commissioner Fox reported that HPO Herron, and Mr. Frandsen toured the Workman Ranch, which is the Heritage Museum in Los Angeles County off Highway 60. The facility is fully funded by the City. She encouraged the Commissioners to visit other area museums and share the information with the Commission.

5.0 Park District General Manager/Staff Reports

5.1 Capital Projects:

Gilman Ranch: Mr. Frandsen provided an update. The insurance money has been received. The support group is in agreement to draw a new master plan for the facility. A designer will be hired to look at the elements of the historic core and the ancillary

functions, like the maintenance, caretaker and restroom. Supervisor Ashley approved the plans. The restroom facility may be moved to the parking lot. They are looking into connecting the restroom to the city sewer. The museum barn will be sealed to better preserve the objects. The recreated barn will look like the original barn, and function as an education facility with temperature control. Prop 84 funds will be sought. The commissioners gave their approval to proceed with the restoration plans.

Jensen-Alvarado Ranch: HPO Herron reported that plaster from the kitchen ceiling failed. The house is currently closed. Mel Green, structural engineer, reviewed the damage and was not been able to determine why it failed. They will do further investigation and provide cost estimates to stabilize the ceiling. Their official recommendations are pending. There are several options available. The overall condition of the building will be reviewed.

San Timoteo Schoolhouse: Pictures of the schoolhouse were presented by HPO Herron. The windows have been rebuilt. Paint colors have been chosen for interior and exterior, based on paint chips from the building. Painting of the exterior will take place in the next few weeks. The interior plastering is just about to start.

5.2 Other Items of Interest:

- a) Mr. Frandsen reported that HPO Keith Herron will be working on the symposium and historic site map for two of his first main projects.
- b) The Commissioner Training session is scheduled for April 28, 2007, at Park Headquarters. Invitations have been mailed out.
- c) HPO Herron presented samples of tour maps. The Publications Subcommittee will address the questions as to the scope of the map and design. It was agreed that the information needs to be included in a website format as well.
- d) HPO Herron provided pictures of the Nicolette School wall mural. He has been in contact with the school regarding the application for landmark designation. The original application from years ago was lost. Of note, is that the original barn from Gilman Ranch is included in this mural. Mr. Amstoy and his students have done research on the people included in the mural, and they have history on each one of them. The current school superintendent needs to write a letter of support. They want to make sure the designation won't impede their school renovations. The school superintendent needs to take it to the Board for approval.
- e) HPO Herron presented pictures of the Elsinore Princess boat. Commissioner Hohenadl reported options for the boat include taking people on tours of the lake, or hiring a concessionaire to use for weddings and meetings. If the cost is too high to restore the boat, it might be possible to dock her at the marina and turn her into a museum or biology/environmental education station.

6.0 Subcommittee Reports

- 6.1 Publications Subcommittee:** The map will be added to the publications subcommittee. Commissioners Darell Farnbach, Marc Hendon and Gerda Hook will serve on the publications subcommittee. HPO Herron will work with them.
- The revised book flyer was approved to send out to the libraries and chamber of commerce offices. The Commissioners would like first contact to remain Park District staff.
- 6.2 Symposium Subcommittee:** Commissioners Charlene Cleary, Rob Lindquist, Joyce Hohenadl, and Hal Rover will serve on next year's subcommittee. HPO Herron will work with them. The dates being considered are October 19, 25 or 26. Tracks for attendees to choose from will be offered this year, in the areas of museum management (collections, preservation, and education) directed at small museums and the other track will be a larger historical overview of the California period. It will be at Park Headquarters, in the new Carriage House.
- 6.3 Awards Subcommittee:** Commissioners Charlene Cleary, Hal Rover, John Worden and Charolette Fox will serve on this year's subcommittee. Several award nominations have been received.

7.0 Old Business

- 7.1 Commissioner Orientation:** In the January Commissioner Retreat it was agreed to put together an orientation notebook for new commissioners. The Commissioners had no new items to add or change today.
- 7.2 Rock Art in Riverside County:** The Planning Department was not able to send a representative today. This item was tabled to the next meeting.

8.0 New Business

Tour Date: The Metropolitan Water District will provide a tour of Historic Garbani Ranch for the Commissioners. It is at the west end of Diamond Valley Lake. The date will tentatively be May 24.

9.0 Time & Place of Next Meeting:

M/S/C: (Hendon/Hohenadl)

To change the next meeting date to May 24, 2007. A room will be arranged through MWD.

10.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Paul Frandsen, Secretary

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