



***Historical Commission Regular Meeting  
Douma House at Diamond Valley Lake  
300 E. Newport Rd, Hemet, CA 92543***

**MINUTES  
Thursday, May 24, 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  
Muriel Schwartz, District V  
John Worden, District V (late – arrived 2:30)

**Members Excused:**

Gerda Hook, District IV

**Staff Present:**

Brian Loew, Assistant General Manager, Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Keith Herron, Historic Preservation Officer, Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Lori Norris, Secretary, Regional Park & Open-Space District

**Guests Present:**

Ruth Atkins, Lake Elsinore Historical Society  
Donna Franson, Lake Elsinore Citizens Committee  
John Visconsi, Redhawk Property Owner, Kimco Realty Corp  
John Ash, JAG Architects  
Jerry Tessier, Arteco Partners  
Tina English, Economic Development Agency  
Bob Curtis, Guest  
Kathy Curtis, Guest  
Paul Price, Guest  
Laura Box, Guest  
Cody Scholes, Guest

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

**1.0 Call to Order & Introductions**

Chairperson Fox thanked the Metropolitan Water District for the use of the facility, tour of the historic Garbani House and hospitality. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. Members and guests provided self introductions.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes**

**M/S/C** (Farnbach/Lindquist) To accept the March 22, 2007, meeting minutes as presented.

**3.0 Public Comment**

No public comments for items not already on the agenda.

#### 4.0 Commissioner Reports:

**Darell Farnbach, District III:** Commissioner Farnbach reported on a special event at Vail Ranch planned for June 9 commemorating the 150 year anniversary of the Jackass Mail delivery. Commissioner Fox thanked Commissioner Farnbach for his work in preservation.

**Rob Lindquist, District III:** Commissioner Lindquist reported that Bob Vieten is working on his third volume of historical homes of Hemet. He continues to work with the Ramona Bowl Board. The San Jacinto Museum artifacts are in a better environment now at the Estudillo Heritage Park, along Dillon Street in San Jacinto. The museum is open Friday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Charlene Cleary, District I:** Commissioner Cleary reported there will be a lighting ceremony on June 6 for the restored lights. Ruth Atkins was asked to provide further information. There are 17 lights that have been restored along Lakeshore Drive. The arms for the lights are new, but the posts are the original. The arms weight 300 pounds each. One of the posts is 80 years old. They will be on a timer from dusk to dawn. Lakeland Village also wants to put in new lights.

**Hal Rover, District IV:** Commissioner Rover reported that a contact in the North Salton Sea area informed him that the adobe on Dos Palms Preserve Stage Station was going to be demolished. However, they found prehistoric artifacts there. The property is a California State Point of Historic Interest and a Riverside County Landmark. It is on 15,000 acres. There are ponds on about 70 acres. It is a well-developed area. Denys Arcuri from Supervisor Wilson's office has seen the property. There are plans to save the adobe and to do something with the property. BLM needs to be contacted to obtain access to the property. There are artesian wells on the site. It is located about 3 miles from Hwy 111. HPO Herron recommended that the activist make contact with the California Office of Preservation regarding the adobe. UCR is looking for files on the property.

**Marc Hendon, District III:** Commissioner Hendon recently went on a California Missions tour. He recommended the tour of the Dana Adobe in Nipomo California. There is a small local group supporting the restoration of this site. This support group makes their own adobe bricks.

Commissioner Rover asked if he knows of the status of the Whitewater site. It was reported that it is located in District III; not District IV, as previously thought. No one is aware of its current status.

Commissioner Fox noted that she spoke to Mr. Frandsen about some property in Idyllwild that was scheduled for demolition. Commissioner Hendon thought it was already demolished. HPO Herron reported that the Idyllwild Historical Society contacted him to see if CEQA was done on the Wright Family Compound. There are plans to build a recreation center on the space. The residents have raised the question on whether this is

a project defined by CEQA. If there is discretionary governmental action under CEQA, then they have to access it. He advised them that the CEQA process should be gone through. It is not known who owns the property now. This brought up further questions on how to stop demolition and how to implement what CEQA wants done. Mr. Loew recommended groups seek contacts in either Riverside County Parks Planning or the Riverside County Planning Department. These environmental agencies get CEQA documents. HPO Herron reported that demolition permits are not a discretionary action and don't require CEQA. Citizens should call their Supervisor's office to find out who the lead agency is, and to see what can be done. Citizens and Commissioners need to get other citizens involved. A CEQA workshop is planned for this year's history symposium.

**Muriel Schwartz & John Worden, District V:** No report.

**Joyce Hohenadl, District I:** Commissioner Hohenadl reported that Bob Cashman, from the Wildomar Historical Society invited her to talk about the function of the Historical Commission. HPO Herron is available to attend these type of meetings as well.

**Charolette Fox, District II:** Commissioner Fox presented the following articles: (1) "Reaching Teachers: Marketing Museum Education in the Twenty-First Century" from the magazine *AASLH History News*, (2) Green Building in History Projects from *The Alliance Review* magazine, and (3) An article on the Acoma Indian Reservation – the First Native-American site to be listed in the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Temecula Museum will hold an exhibit on the Overland Mail from April 14 through June 17. Commissioner Fox noted that when contractors contact her, she refers them to the Commissioner for the district in question. The US Treasurer was educated at Banning High School. She will be in the area on June 23.

## 5.0 Park District Staff Reports

**5.1 Capital Improvement Projects:** Brian Loew, Assistant General Manager, presented the CIP following report:

**Jensen-Alvarado Ranch:** The winery stabilization continues. Drainage has been reconfigured to move water away from the foundation of the structure. Excavation of the foundation is being phased over time. The work is being integrated while the interpretive programs continue. The earthquake stabilization should be done in a few months. Structural Engineer, Mel Green, is reviewing the kitchen ceiling collapse. He is also doing structural assessment of the remaining buildings. His report should be ready in another month.

**San Timoteo Schoolhouse:** The caretaker is living on site. The project is approximately 90% done. Work on the interior is being done in coordination with Jerry Cody and the Schoolhouse Committee. There are some original furnishings that may be donated. It is hopeful for this project to be completed in June.

**Gilman Ranch:** Proposed plans are to make a new entry to the property and to reconstruct the old barn for use by the interpretive programs, artifact storage, and wagons. A firm was hired to do the master plan and preliminary cost estimates. The project will be done in phases, as money becomes available.

The plan to expand the interpretive programs at both Gilman Ranch and San Timoteo Schoolhouse are in the budget for next year. Another interpreter is being hired to split time between the Gilman Ranch and the San Timoteo Schoolhouse.

Chair Fox would like to know the cost estimates for each historic CIP project. HPO Herron and Mr. Loew explained that the amounts are not known at this time. The money comes from State Park Bond Grants that work on a reimbursement basis. The monies are available to finish the San Timoteo project. The amount needed for the Gilman Ranch has not been determined yet.

**5.2 Street Name Change:** HPO Herron and recorder Lori Norris met with TLMA to review the process for street name changes. HPO Herron presented the street name change guidelines to streamline the process. The street name change from Western Avenue to Chase School Road was already approved.

- The street name change guidelines will be placed on the next agenda for approval by the Commission. The requests will include a map of the street.

**5.3 Other Items of Interest:**

- a) HPO Herron noted that the UCR Eastern Information Center has all historic survey documents and archeological records that have come through the office of Historic Preservation. There is a fee required to obtain information. The number to reach them is (951) 827-5745. Native American information is not available for access.
- b) There's no word yet from Nicolette School regarding the letter of support for the Historic Landmark designation regarding the mural.

**6.0 Subcommittee Reports**

**6.1 Publications Subcommittee:** HPO Herron reported that he met with the Publications Subcommittee members. Commissioner Schwartz has decided to remain on the Publications Subcommittee. As discussed at the last meeting, it was decided to make the map a driving-tour piece. HPO Herron was asked to interview graphic artists for design purposes. To date he has interviewed two of three firms. After the third interview is done, he will provide a summary to the subcommittee. The subcommittee will then make their recommendation to the Commission. Each commissioner was asked to work with the HPO to update the current historic sites in their districts and provide any additions or corrections.

- HPO Herron will review the list that Dr. Love worked on for the Dangermond Report to send to Commissioners. A date will be set for the subcommittee to meet again after the third interview is done.

**6.2 Symposium Subcommittee:** HPO Herron provided the symposium information for 2007. The title is "Conversation, Preparation, Preservation". The theme will be how to do preservation at City, County, State and National levels. A session on CEQA will be included; what the process is and how to use it. HPO Herron would like to write a handout for participants to include the City and County preservation ordinances for each area and the different levels of historic designation and what they mean. Speakers still need to be selected. The symposium will be held in the new Carriage House at Park Headquarters on Friday, October 26, 2007. The time will be 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m.

**6.3 Awards Subcommittee:** Commissioner Worden presented the revised Awards Application. There was a correction needed on the first page.

Commissioner Worden announced that the subcommittee considered making the awards presentation a separate event from the symposium, and then presented the reasons to keep it as part of the symposium. John Worden thanked Lori Norris for her work with the Historical Commission and subcommittees.

**M/S/C:** (Worden\Lindquist) To accept the changes to the Awards Application as corrected.

Recommendations to consider for this year's symposium include having the Commissioner(s) for the award winner's district be available to greet the award winner and provide any needed assistance. Another consideration for next year is that the award winners, speakers or others be asked if they are interested in helping with the selection process for the following year's award application.

## **7.0 Old Business**

**7.1 Rock Art in Riverside County:** The Planning Department was not able to provide the staff to address this today and asked to table this agenda item until the July meeting.

## **8.0 New Business**

**8.1 Vail Ranch Update:** Jerry Tessier, President of Artec Partners, and John Ash, of John Ash Group Architects, presented detailed conceptual elevation site plans of the proposed historic restoration of the four acres of the Vail Ranch Headquarters. Artec specializes in adaptive reuse and historic property preservation. There will be some new construction in order to activate the site as a destination place, such as a restaurant in the old cook house. The Commissioners were given the opportunity to have their questions answered. The project still has approximately 9 months of planning and 12 months of construction until it is completed. The project has been annexed into the City of Temecula. John Visconsi, Vail Ranch property owner, expressed his support for the project.

Commissioner Fox requested a tour of Vail Ranch for the Commissioners before construction begins. There was no action required for this item.

- 8.2 **Application for Landmark Status:** HPO Herron reported that he reviewed the application for the *Elsinore Princess* for nomination of Historic Landmark status. He reported that the application meets the Historical Commission criteria for County Landmark status. He presented the notebook with the application, which includes photos, maps, and descriptions of the boat, an assessment of the boat from a marine engineering firm, a bibliography, and an estimate for repairs.

The notebook includes letters of support from: William Shophoff, The Shophoff Group; Frank Pasarella, Education Superintendent, Lake Elsinore Unified School District; Kevin Jefferies, Member of California Assembly; Assemblyman John J. Benoit; Gordon Craig of Classic Pacific Homebuilding Association; Dennis Hollingsworth, Legislature; Senator Jim Batton; The Lake Elsinore Dream Extreme; Lake Elsinore Historical Society; Castillon Cook, Alber Hill Ranch; Lake Elsinore Police Department; the Village of Corte Romano; John Lange Homes; the Lake Elsinore Marina, and the principal owner of the boat, Pete Dawson.

Commissioner Hohenadl provided a brief history on the vessel. The *Princess* was built in 1923 and launched in 1924. William Wrigley of the Wrigley Chewing-Gum empire, asked famed ship builder, Mr. Mueller, to five wooden glass-bottom boats. An article from The Catalina Islander, dated May 7, 1924, stated "The *Princess* is the fastest and is more powerful than any of the other glass-bottom boats. It is similar in design, but not quit as large as the *Emperor* and can carry about 132 passengers." The *Empress*, *Emperor*, and *Phoenix* are now gone. The only other remaining glass-bottom boat is the *Blanch W*, which remains a tour boat in Catalina. One of the conditions of sale of the *Princess* was to remove her glass-bottom. Many famous people rode the *Princess*. She was used as a Mississippi River-Boat, which included a restaurant. After she was abandoned, she sat behind the Queen Mary ship in Long Beach for some time. Pirates stole her engines to sell back to the owner, but the owner bought new ones. Mr. Mueller's son has the original tracing of the brass nameplate, so it can be remade.

The Elsinore Princess Foundation, is being formed to manage the vessel. Their goal is to take residents on trips around the lake, to use it as a classroom for biology and environmental classes, and as a museum. Original schematics and artifacts have been offered by the LA Maritime Museum in San Pedro.

Donna Fransen, President of the Lake Elsinore Citizens Group, and Ruth Atkins, President of the Lake Elsinore Historical Society, presented their reasons for support of this project. There is a lot of public interest in this project. The Lake Elsinore City and Chamber of Commerce are also behind this project. The new marina on Lake Shore Drive has a spot ready to moor the boat and will provide security for the *Princess*.

The Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions. The budget information is in the notebook. Financing will be done through grants and business support. A management company will be hired to take care of operations and maintenance. Any money raised will be used for maintenance and operations. The non-profit foundation will hold ownership of the vessel once the foundation paperwork is approved.

**M/S/C:** (Hohenadl/Farnbach) To recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they accept the application of the Elsinore Princess for Riverside County Historic Landmark status and California State Point of Interest status.

**8.3 Letter of Support:** Mr. Will Lash, owner of the Bogart House in Cherry Valley, was unable to attend the meeting today. HPO Herron presented Mr. Lash's request for a letter of support from the Historical Commission for National Register nomination for the Bogart House. HPO Herron presented background information and believes that a letter of support from the Commission would be appropriate. The home already has Riverside County and State Point of Historic Interest status. The State nomination form was not available for review. It is not required to apply for State Landmark status to apply for National Register nomination.

**M/S/C:** (Hendon/Schwartz) To send a letter from the Historical Commission in support of the National Register nomination for the Bogart House in Cherry Valley.

➤ HPO Herron and Commissioners Hendon will draft the letter for Chair Fox's signature.

**8.4 Historical Commission Summary Report:** The draft of the annual report to send to the Board of Supervisors was reviewed. There were no additions or corrections.

**M/S/C:** (Lindquist/Worden) To accept the annual report as presented.

**9.0 Time & Place of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be on July 19, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Park District Headquarters in the Carriage House. Commissioner Rover requested that pictures of the tours be sent to the Commissioners.

**10.0 Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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Paul Frandsen, Secretary

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