



*Historical Commission Regular Meeting*  
**Beaumont Women's Club**  
306 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Beaumont, CA 92223

**MINUTES**  
**Thursday, September 20, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Charlene Cleary, District I  
Joyce Hohenadl, District I  
Charolette Fox, District II  
Darell Farnbach, District III  
Robert Lindquist, District III, Chair  
Marc Hendon, Sr., District III  
Hal Rover, District IV, Vice-Chair  
Muriel Schwartz, District V  
John Worden, District V (arrived 1:55 pm)

**Members Excused:**

Gerda Hook, District IV

**Staff Present:**

Paul Frandsen, General Manager, Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Keith Herron, Historic Preservation Officer, Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Nancy Wenzel, Interpretive Services Supervisor, Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Steve Lech, Assistant Park Planner, Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Lori Norris, Secretary, Regional Park & Open-Space District

**Guests Present:**

Bob Curtis, Guest  
Jerry Cody, Park District Advisory Commission  
Leone Cody, San Timoteo Schoolhouse Committee  
Virginia Ross, EDM Pass Historical Society  
Claire Broyles, SG Pass Historical Society

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

**1.0 Call to Order & Introductions**

Chair Lindquist called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Members and guests provided self introductions.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes**

**M/S/C** (Fox/Hendon) To accept the July 19, 2007, meeting minutes as presented.

**3.0 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**4.0 Commissioner Reports:**

**Charolette Fox, District II:** Commissioner Fox passed on an item to Darell Farnbach. No additional report.

**Muriel Schwartz, District V:** No report.

**Marc Hendon, District III:** No report.

**Charlene Cleary, District I:** The Lake Elsinore Historical Society requested information on how to get EDA funds for a City issue. It was recommended that they contact either their City Counsel or City Planning Director.

**Joyce Hohenadl, District I:** Commissioner Hohenadl was given the assigned landmark number, RIV-074, for the Elsinore Princess. Several newspapers have done articles on the Princess. The Press Enterprise wants to do an update on the Military Academy as well.

Commissioner Hohenadl was a guest speaker at a recent Wildomar Historical Society meeting. The Brown House was deeded to the Wildomar Historical Society. The 121-year-old house and water tower have been moved. Grading still needs to be done.

The Lake Elsinore Historical Society is sponsoring a bus tour to the Amie McPherson Castle on October 20. The Castle has been refurbished by the Foursquare Church and they are allowing the public in for a one-time event.

The Lake Elsinore Historical Society met with Nancy Daniels from the Garret Corporation and Heritage Architect Planning regarding the Military Academy. Their plans are to incorporate their facility around the entry hall, ball room, dining room and the library for use as a meeting facility for the community. The grounds are now being taken care of.

The Lake Elsinore Ambassador Hotel, built in 1887, will be torn town to build condos. They are going to save the bricks and redwood timbers, to sell as souvenirs. The bricks came from the Pacific Clay Factory in Lake Elsinore. Chair Lindquist recommended checking if the fittings from the building can be harvested for future restorations projects.

**Rob Lindquist, District III:** The Ritchie house in eastern Hemet went through a similar process that the Military Academy did. It was severely vandalized and had several changes of ownership. The Riverside County Planning Commission is reviewing the project.

Grounds work is being done at the Estudillo Mansion. Artifacts were found at the site of the other Estudillo house, when they built the addition to the rock factory, but they built over them rather than excavate.

Chair Lindquist showed the plans for the Stockyard in Hemet. They will save the buildings, grandstands, the peppertrees, and restore the entry structure. The commercial and residential uses will be able to expand over time. The Garrett Corporation is in charge of this project as well. He encouraged the Commissioners to review the document. He believes this will be a positive project for Hemet.

**Darell Farnbach, District III:** Commissioner Farnbach reported approximately 600 people attended the Jackass Mail 150-year anniversary held in June hosted by VaRRA.

VaRRA received the key to the implement barn. Some artifacts have been moved in. It will be called the Little Temecula History Center.

Vail Ranch Headquarters plans have been submitted to the City and County. There are some minor changes recommended. Meetings with the developers take place next week.

They are in the planning stages of the 150-year anniversary of the Butterfield Stage. They want to partner with other groups in the community. It will probably be a two-day event.

The *Temecula* book has sold 5,800 copies; the *Murrieta* book has sold 2,800 copies; and the *Fallbrook* book has sold 800 copies. The books are wonderful fundraisers.

Commissioner Farnbach took HPO Herron on a tour of old Town Temecula, the Pechanga Indian Reservation, and Vail Ranch headquarters.

The Temecula Historical Society had a dinner and tour of the Murrieta Hot Springs that is now a Bible College for Calvary Chapel. He provided pictures for the Commissioners.

**Hal Rover, District IV:** Commissioner Rover reported that Jennifer Kelly plans to submit a historic designation application in the November meeting for the Dos Palmas Adobe. Ms. Kelly is working on an application for the original residence of John Hilton, built in 1931. He was a famous painter, geologist, and botanist. The walls are full of gemstones. His biography, *The Man Who Captured Sunshine*, talks about the magnetite stone found on the property.

## 5.0 Park District Staff Reports

**5.1 Capital Improvement Projects:** Paul Frandsen, General Manager, reported on the history tours he took during his trip to Spain and Gibraltar.

**Jensen-Alvarado Ranch & Museum:** Mr. Frandsen reported that another tree branch came down on tree #4. The arborist has been called back. This is the tree that has a large cavity. The arborist's recommendations will be reported to the Historical Commission Chair.

HPO Herron reported that the kitchen ceiling plaster restoration is done. The house will be ready to open again October 1. Supervisor Tavaglione dedicated \$200,000 to help with the repairs. HPO Herron reported that a new exhibit on agriculture, as practiced on the ranch, is being created.

**Trujillo Adobe:** HPO Herron visited the building due to reports of water damage. The structure, located in north Riverside, on the County line with San Bernardino, is in an industrial area with vibration from trucks. The structure was built around

1865. It continues to deteriorate around the windows and doors. A structural engineer presented a schematic drawing of a bracing box to protect it from the rain and seismic activity. The plans have not been approved yet.

**Gilman Ranch:** The Community Works, a Riverside firm, is doing the design for the Gilman Ranch Master Plan. They have done survey work to locate sewers and infrastructures. They submitted preliminary recommendations. The location and material details have not been decided yet. The budget for the Master Plan is pending.

## **5.2 Other Items of Interest:**

Historic Districts: HPO Herron met with Jerry Joliffe and Leslie Mouriquand to discuss the idea of County Historic Districts. There is an ordinance on the book, #578, but it has never been used. If an application is made, it comes to the Parks Director, who then refers it to the Historical Commission. A study has to be commissioned, with results going back to the Parks Director, who then makes a recommendation to County Planning. If the Board of Supervisors approves an application, then a local board is appointed. The local board will establish the standards for the district. HPO Herron was charged with comparing the ordinance to other preservation district ordinances. HPO Herron will make recommendations to Mr. Frandsen and they will decide if a revision needs to be made. This will affect only planning and building codes in unincorporated areas of the County.

Mr. Frandsen noted that the City of Beaumont is working with Mr. Cody, Chair of the San Timoteo Schoolhouse Committee; Mr. Lech, Assistant Park Planner; and Ms. Wenzel, Interpretive Services Supervisor, on the bikeway from Noble Creek to the San Timoteo Schoolhouse. They have worked on the interpretive panels for the 7-1/2 mile trail. Mr. Frandsen thanked Mr. Cody for his work on the project.

## **6.0 Subcommittee Reports**

**6.1 Publications Subcommittee:** HPO Herron introduced Dawn Hassett from Geographics. Ms. Hassett is creating the driving tour map to historic sites in the County. The primary audience is people in automobiles, tourists and local people who are interested in history and culture. The County needs to be divided geographically due to its size. The tours may be grouped into themes, if it is possible (i.e., Native American Heritage, Agriculture, Water, Transportation, and Former Health Resorts). Over time, there will be more than one printing of the map. After the map is a success, a goal will be to take more detailed information about the sites and make it available via the Intranet.

Ms. Hassett presented two work copies of artwork, modern and historic, for the Commissioners to review and comment on. The County Courthouse was chosen as the cover because it is symbolic of history, culture and the County.

The tourism study done several years ago includes a map with significant sites to see. The focus will be sites where actual things can be seen. There will only be room for a sentence or two about each site, and a small picture of each site.

**6.2 Symposium Subcommittee:** HPO Herron presented the draft of the program. One of the speakers backed out and Mr. Herron is trying to locate another speaker. The focus will be grassroots preservation, why it is important and how to make it happen. HPO Herron spoke about the speakers and their topics.

**M/S/C:** (Fox/Hohenadl) To Commissioners approved the 2007 History Symposium budget for \$6,000.

**6.3 Awards Subcommittee:** Commissioner Worden reported the winners for 2007. Commissioner Worden thanked Commissioner Fox for getting the program started. This year the Awards Subcommittee members went on site and spoke to the nominees. Samples of the awards were distributed for review. Commissioner Fox would like the Commissioners to think about creating a special "Commissioner's award" to be given when applicable. Commissioner Rover appreciated getting to meet with the applicants to better understand what they have accomplished. Award applications are needed for next year.

## **7.0 New Business**

**7.1 County Landmark Designation for Mission Inn:** Commissioner Worden, the Director of the Mission Inn Foundation, provided a description of the Mission Inn Foundation. Its purpose is to dedicate the public trust in the Mission Inn, which is a privately owned National Historic Landmark; and to interpret and promote the culture and social significance of the Inn and its collections in the context of local, regional and national history. During the research for the 30-year-celebration of having a National Historic Landmark designation, it was found that County Historic Landmark status had not been obtained. Commissioner Worden presented history on the Mission Inn. The Commissioners were given time to ask questions.

**M/S/C:** (Hohenadl/Fox)

The Commission approved the nomination of the Mission Inn for County Landmark designation.

**7.2 Restoration Project at Jensen-Alvarado Ranch:** HPO Herron provided background information and pictures for the Commission to review regarding structural repairs and restoration plans. Supervisor Tavaglione toured the site and approved \$200,000 towards the project. The Park District has another \$170,000. The scope of work includes: roof, windows, plaster, masonry, and decorative elements; reinstall period windmill and dismantle existing pump house; and restoration of the wash house. Park staff has reviewed the recommendations from Heritage Architecture.

HPO Herron recommended that the wallpaper be preserved in place by removing the loose paper, repair the cracks in the plaster, and then infill with solid colors that match the base colors of the wallpapers. A paper conservator will be used.

The wash house is probably one of the original buildings on the site. It has suffered deterioration due to termite and moisture damage. HPO Herron is recommending a restoration-reconstruction. The pros and cons of restoration vs. reconstruction were discussed. HPO Herron recommends good documentation of the building, with measurements, and essentially reconstruct with saving of some of the core elements.

Staff would like the new building to be used interpretively. Laundry was a huge chore in that day, and is a key story of the life of the household. HPO Herron will know more about what is salvageable from the building after closer study is done.

Commissioner Fox noted that there is demolition by delay, and by delay there will be nothing left for interpretive purposes. The building is currently not safe for a child to even look inside.

HPO Herron showed pictures of Jensen-Alvarado Ranch with a windmill in the area of the water pump. The windmill originally pumped the water up into the tank. A windmill has been located at another park to relocate to the site. The Commissioners concurred with the planned improvement package.

Commissioner Worden recommended that the improvements be integrated into an upgraded strategic business plan for the Ranch. This could be used as an educational opportunity to talk about the different options and choices made, different rationales and conflicting needs, and ultimate uses to explain educationally to the public. Mr. Frandsen pointed out that HPO Herron will bring the revised strategic business plan for Jensen-Alvarado Ranch back to the Commission for review. The plan will contain a contingency plan in case the adjacent property is acquired, for projects such as a visitor center and a different entrance.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting location will be in the Palm Desert area.

**9.0 Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. A tour of the San Timoteo Schoolhouse followed the meeting.

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Paul Frandsen, Secretary  
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