

## **HISTORICAL LANDMARKS & RECORDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

The meeting of the Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission was called to order on May 9, 2002. There were not enough members present to form a quorum, therefore, Chairman Randy McFarland decided the group would operate as a committee of the whole and only be discussing items for information.

Members present: Virgil Ahlberg, Valerie Comegys, Judy Ganulin, Randy McFarland, Roger Taylor, Robert Wash, Prudence Zalewski

Members absent: Ben Amirkhanian, Anna Herrera, Steve McDonald, Bud Olson, Adrian Threlkeld

Members excused: Steve Barile, Aileen Bos, Margaret Murphy, Roger Taylor

Others present: John Kallenberg, Ron Leinio, Theresa Acosta Mena

### **Discussion/Notes**

#### **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **Landmarks**

**Role of the Commission in handling requests from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) including issues related to demolition:** Mr. Kallenberg reported that up until recently Mr. Ray Silvia was the key person who reviewed requests for comment from the County Housing and Community Development Department and from Resources & Planning. Due to Mr. Silvia's workload Mr. Kallenberg will be taking this responsibility.

At Mr. Silvia's suggestion, Mr. Kallenberg asked if there were any Commission members who would be willing from time to time to assist with the review of properties that come to the attention of the Commission. Mr. Kallenberg said he would appreciate knowing if members would be willing to be volunteers in their area of interest or geography within the county to make a determination on some of the properties. He is expecting to receive some information from Public Works related to the Highway 168 road widening project. There may be some properties of concern. Chairman McFarland said he would be available for the Selma area. Other members present also volunteered.

Ms. Theresa Acosta-Mena from Planning & Resource Management's Planning & Environmental Analysis section said she is responsible for environmental work on CDBG programs. Mr. Ron Leinio who works in the same department said he was asked to attend the meeting because he has the responsibility of coordinating paperwork on housing projects.

Mr. Leinio provided some background information about the Community Development and Block Grants (CDBG) program. He stated that it is a federal program primarily used for housing programs and public works projects.

Ms. Acosta-Mena said that one of the reasons there are more requests for involvement by the Commission is that the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) revised their Appendix "A" review form (comment form). It now requires the County to submit to the State Office of Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) minor housing rehabilitation projects that are less

than 50 years old involving exterior improvements. This is something the County is required to do until such time that a programmatic agreement is executed between the County and SHPO.

Mr. Kallenberg explained the review process and gave examples of recent requests. There have been lots of public works projects, curbs and gutters and alley restorations and those are easy to deal with. The requests for comment involving residential structures get more complicated, especially when they are over 50 years old. When some serious questions arise, or if a request is received for a property or site on the List of Historic Places, then they are referred to the Commission as an agenda item for review.

Mr. Kallenberg said each request is different, and he was not sure what a Commissioner's role would be in researching a request.

**Fresno Ag Hardware:** To be discussed at the next meeting.

**Naming of County Facilities – Revised/New County Policy:** Mr. Kallenberg explained that he placed this item on the agenda to make the Commission aware of changes in the County's policy related to designating County facilities in honor of individuals. This includes naming roads and bridges. In conjunction with Public Works, the policy requires the Commission to review petitions and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. During discussion it was explained that this policy does not affect the names of roads and bridges.

Mr. Leinio described the signage. The cost of the sign and the cost of installing the sign is on the applicant. All other costs are covered by the County.

### **Reports:**

Vice-Chairman Taylor mentioned the event at Fresno City College during Historic Preservation Week.

Mr. Kallenberg reported on the Butler Avenue applications in Sunnyside. He met with County Counsel and other County staff to review the next steps based on the direction from the Board of Supervisors. They discussed several issues related to these applications: the County's historic preservation process, issues surrounding the new beautification ordinance and these applications, and the landscape drive program of the County and how it affects these application.

They concluded that County Counsel and the Library will get together to add some text to the Board of Supervisors agenda concerning issues relating to

CEQA and some of the extra requirements placed upon Public Works when road improvements involve trees over a certain age.

Another issue discussed involved the need to clarify whether the applicant and the Commission consider the trees as being the important element of historic preservation as opposed to the road. If this is so, the application as listed did not seem appropriate. This item is to be discussed by the Commission at the next meeting.

**Other:** Chairman McFarland will be sending a letter to all Commissioners about the importance of attending meetings.

A meeting was tentatively scheduled to on June 6 at 4 p.m. Members will be contacted to determine if there will be a quorum.

Review attendance and report to the Board of Supervisors. First step to is put a letter together.