

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

The regular meeting of the Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission was held on November 14, 2002.

Members present: Virgil Ahlberg, Ben Amirkhanian, Stephen Barile, Judy Ganulin, Anna Herrera, Steve McDonald, Randy McFarland, Margaret Murphy, Mabelle Selland, Roger Taylor, Prudence Zalewski  
Members absent: Adrian Threlkeld  
Members excused: Aileen Bos, Valerie Comegys, Bud Olson, Robert Wash  
Others present: John Kallenberg, Steve Weil

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

- (1) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy McFarland.
- (2) Introductions were held.
- (3) It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the agenda as distributed.
- (4) The minutes of September 12, 2002 were adopted without change.

### (5) **Comments from the Public**

Mr. Steve Weil spoke about the proposed demolition of the Hotel Fresno. He suggested consideration be given to locating the new central library on the block where the hotel is located. After discussion, Chairman McFarland agreed to place an item on the January agenda to discuss threatened buildings in the downtown area.

Mr. Kallenberg said there is still time to incorporate advice and comments from the Commission on location of the new Central Library in the report that will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors in January.

### (6) **Records**

- a) Update on the records management training program for County staff - Mr. Kallenberg and the County Clerk's staff have been working on this project. He anticipates that they will be finalizing details in December and forwarding them to the Commission for comment.
- b) Report from County Clerk regarding new records storage facility and services for storage of archival records - No discussion. Continued to the January meeting.

### (7) **Landmarks**

- a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County
  - 1) Properties recommended to the Board of Supervisors since the last meeting - None

- 2) Pending Applications – Action Needed - None.
  - 3) Applications Under Review - None.
- b) Centennial Farms  
None.
- d) Update on request to review markers/memorials and sculptures on the historic Courthouse Park grounds - As a result of recent requests from the community to place additional markers in Courthouse Park, Supervisor Anderson suggested that the Commission might be interested in assuming the responsibility of considering these requests and forwarding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. A preliminary meeting was held with the County Administrative Officer and Supervisor Susan Anderson.

If the Commission agrees, Mr. Kallenberg will prepare a revision of the duties of the Commission to include this function and then forward them to the Board of Supervisors for approval. During discussion, a tour of Courthouse Park was suggested. Mr. Kallenberg will ask Public Works to prepare a scaled drawing to show where everything is.

It was moved by Mrs. Selland and seconded by Mrs. Ganulin that the Commission volunteer to undertake this duty and that the Secretary advise the Board of Supervisors of this decision. Motion carried.

- e) Hall of Records project - Chairman McFarland, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Selland, and Mr. Kallenberg met with Bart Bohn, County Administrative Officer and Bill Patnuade from the Historical Society concerning remodeling the Hall of Records. The meeting was requested by Mr. Bohn. Mr. Bohn detailed some of plans to bring the inside and outside back to its original luster of the 1930's and showcase the building's architecture. Mr. Kallenberg noted that the building is not on the County's list and said it has been difficult to find early photos of the building, although some have been located in the Fresno Bee archives. A visit to the Hall of Records was suggested as part of a spring field trip to view the Courthouse Park monuments.
- f) Tankhouses discussion - Mr. Taylor spoke about the tankhouses in the area, and said that in order to preserve them he thought there needs to be some type of public education about their historic value through articles in the Bee. He spoke about the difference between water towers and tankhouses. A water tower is associated with commercial, industrial or public use. A tankhouse is specifically related to providing a water supply for a single residence or small group.
- A letter will be sent to Mr. Russell Fey's family requesting copies of photographs or deposit in the library collection.
- g) Potentially threatened property (Staley House, 1827 Silvia Street, Selma) on Fresno County List of Historic Places - Chairman McFarland said this is one of the oldest houses in Selma built around 1885-86. The daughter of the owner contacted Mr. McFarland to let him know that the house is in need of major

repairs. Mr. McFarland referred them to a couple of people who may help them explore options for restoration to avoid demolition.

(8) **Reports**

a) Chairman's Report

- 1) Commission term expirations - Chairman McFarland has contacted most members whose terms are about to expire to determine their interest in reappointment. Commissioners Ahlberg, Herrera, McFarland, Murphy, Zalewski, expressed interest in reappointment when their terms expire in January. Mrs. Comegys and Mrs. Threlkeld will not be reappointed. In addition, there are three vacancies and three applications on file. After reviewing the applications, Commissioners agreed to recommend Ms. Linda Helm to fill the 2-year term, and Ms. Sharon Dunn and Dr. James Kus were recommended for the 4-year terms.

<p>A motion was made, seconded and carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors reappointment of Commissioners Ahlberg, Herrera, McFarland, Murphy, and Zalewski, and that Ms. Dunn, Dr. Kus, and Ms. Helm be appointed to fill the vacant positions as discussed.</p>
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- b) Vice-Chairman's Report - Mr. Taylor reported that he attended State Historic Resources Commission meeting, and he distributed brochures about the history of that commission.

c) Secretary's Report

- 1) Attendance Report - The Board of Supervisors has revised the attendance policy for advisory boards and commissions. Previously if a member was absent for three consecutive meetings, or five regular meetings within a calendar year the member was deemed to have resigned unless the absences were excused. The amendment creates an automatic resignation for unexcused absences in excess of two regular meetings in a calendar year if the board has six or fewer regular meetings per calendar year.

For the HLRC, if members miss in excess of two regular meetings (unexcused) in a calendar year a member is deemed to have automatically resigned. Absences may be excused by the Commission due to illness, absence from the County or extreme weather conditions. The Secretary to the Commission is to notify members of this policy. New members will be given an orientation. The schedule of meetings for next year will be drafted for approval at the next meeting.

The Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Fresno is Karana Hattersley-Drayton.

- d) Commission Member Comments - Mrs. Selland handed out brochures about the Fulton Mall Walking Tour and mentioned some of the historic preservation activities happening downtown.

Commissioners shared information about various community events.

(9) **Announcements**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2003.

(10) **Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.