

Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held at the West Fresno Regional Center on May 20, 2010.

Members present: Randy McFarland, Don Shantz, Pat Hunter, Nancy Enloe, John Baltierra, Bud Olson, Penny Raven, Lou Catallo, Ethan Kytile, Dr. Susan Pappas, Elizabeth Laval, Dr. James Kus, and Janice Stevens.

Members absent: Roger Taylor, Aileen Bos, David Berkey, Stephen Barile.

Others present: Karen Bosch Cobb, Bill Secrest Jr, Karen Coletti.

Agenda Items

- 1) Chairman Randy McFarland called meeting to order.
- 2) Chairman McFarland welcomed Commissioners and visitors.
- 3) Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted.
- 4) Approval of Minutes
 - a) Page 3 - Item g) line six, replace “restoration of historical sites” with the “transformation of problem neighborhoods into loving, healthy, and safe environments.”
 - b) Page 4 - Item g) line three replace Van Ness Avenue with M St.
 - c) Page 5 - Item e) correct spelling of Poulton to Poultney.
 - d) Commissioner Olson moved to approve the corrected minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pappas: motion carried.
- 5) Comments from the Public - None
- 6) California History & Genealogy Room - Bill Secrest Jr. presented one of a nine volume set of the Fresno city block books, compiled in 1939. They are similar to the Sanborn fire insurance maps, showing lot dimensions and footprints for individual buildings. He showed a section of one book which detailed part of Old Fig Garden between Saginaw and Lansing Ways. This information is of considerable value when looking for specific information on homes and other municipal properties. This work was commissioned by the City and funded by the Works Progress Administration as a Depression-era project. Years later, they were copied by Ephraim Smith, a history professor at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Smith, recently retired, donated his personal set to the California History and Genealogy Room. The Special

Collections unit of CSUF's Henry Madden Library holds the only other duplicate set of this important work.

7) Records - None

8) Landmarks

a) Courthouse Park grounds markers/memorials and sculptures - None

b) Inventory of Historic sites in Fresno County

i) The Board of Supervisors will be reconsidering the Commission's recommendation to approve Old Fig Garden as a Historic District on May 25, 2010. There were 21 letters returned from the mailing to the Old Fig Garden District sent on April 30, 2010. There was also some correspondence from residents with concerns about being included or excluded. Commissioner Laval was going to call and speak to one of the concerned residents, Mrs. Willa Hancock. There is a resident that wants to be included; the new map in blue indicates that she is excluded. It was noted that there was some confusion on what was being included or excluded on the new map. Chairman McFarland gave an update on what was taken back to the Board. His thought was that this lady and the commercial property were accidentally excluded. Commissioner Laval thought that the Board of Supervisors did not completely understand the boundaries and what the residents want. Commissioner Laval asked if a majority vote was required for passage and if Supervisor Anderson was sponsoring the Agenda Item. Commissioner Pappas also questioned whether or not there would be representation of Old Fig Garden residents. Commissioner Raven asked if Bernard Jimenez from County would be present to speak about the map. Karen Bosch Cobb will check with Bernard. Chairman McFarland invited Commissioners to attend the Board of Supervisor meeting.

ii) Miller House: Scott Haugland emailed stating that he is still working on completing the application and has some very good updates from descendants from the Miller Home. The letter distributed in the agenda packet from the City of Sanger stated that the home is in the City, and that the City is in support of the home being on the Historic Landmark and Records Commission list. A motion to table this to the September meeting was made by Commissioner Shantz and seconded by Commissioner Baltierra; motion carried.

iii) Suggestions for new applications: Commissioner Baltierra asked if a bridge in Firebaugh was a Historical Site. Chairman McFarland spoke of the Big Creek project. In 2012, there will be structure that will be great interest to add, the original dam at Shaver Lake. Shaver Lake will be drained. The Southern

California Edison Company will be in charge of the project, and Chairman McFarland stated that they are very cooperative with the Commission. Commissioner Olson spoke of the Old Shaver Mill. Commissioner Raven mentioned a relevant Laval photo in the Pop Laval Gallery. Commissioner Laval spoke of the photo in more detail. Chairman McFarland asked that everyone work on putting sites and places on the list. Commissioner Pappas questioned about sites that are already historical sites in Old Fig Garden. Chairman McFarland stated that their status would not change.

- c) Centennial Farms - None
- d) Centennial Businesses – None
- e) Centennial Communities - Reviewed annually in January.
- f) Centennial Schools - Commissioner Pappas met with the Centennial Schools Committee on April 29th, at the Pop Laval Gallery. She complimented the talented people on the committee (Commissioners Olson, Shantz, Stevens, McFarland and Laval). The meeting went well and there are many resources in the library as well as outside. The superintendents from the schools, the County, and Districts have written histories on the schools. The American Association of University Women published a book on the County Schools; they have intentions of writing a second and third and have note folders on them. They have already sent them to Bill Secrest, Jr., and Commissioner Pappas looked through them. They are helpful but some are sketchy. There are yearbooks, County directories, and City directories with a great deal of information. There are no County School Office archives; Commissioner Pappas has asked for assistance from Fresno County Schools Superintendent, Larry Powell including resources and criteria. Commissioner Pappas ask for past school Board minutes. Fresno County schools do not have directories. Chairman McFarland mentioned that when a district is established, it is in the Board of Supervisor meeting minutes. Commissioner Olson stated that Sierra High School District has directories back to 1875. Chairman McFarland asked how many schools have been identified. Commissioner Pappas does not know how many schools yet. Commissioner Pappas stated there is a lot of conflicting data, and that criteria are not established. Commissioner Pappas stated that this is not going to be an easy task to find information even with all of the resources. Karen Bosch Cobb spoke of the regular meeting that Larry Powell has with his superintendents, and that he could bring this up to them. Commissioner Laval also mentioned Pete Mehas, former Fresno County Schools Superintendent, as an excellent resource. Commissioner Shantz questioned a place to store this historical data that is being gathered and where can we keep it. Karen Bosch Cobb said Bill Secrest, Jr. is storing whatever we gave him in the California and Genealogy Room in the Central Library. Commissioner Baltierra mentioned the Madden Library as a possible repository. Commissioner Pappas explained that

there are 34 districts, and they have been divided up between committee members. Each member will be assigned schools from specific Districts. Commissioner Pappas went over the criteria to bring forward documentation and continuation of the original schools. Criteria would not be that much different from our criteria for businesses and centennial communities. Commissioner Laval spoke of Garfield which burnt down and has been moved; the school itself is still 100 years old and in operation though in a new location. Chairman McFarland stated that they should be schools that have been running 100 years consecutively. Karen Bosch Cobb asked about exceptions such as emergencies and illnesses and suggested such exceptions be written into the criteria. The Commission went over the draft Board of Supervisors Agenda Item and Resolution. Chairman McFarland thought that everything looked great so far. Commissioner Shantz spoke of all the abandoned schools and how we should be preserving as we go by taking pictures. Commissioner Pappas asked all of Committee members to speak. Commissioner Stevens spoke of research and copy process, also about Clovis Unified History of Schools to be published in the fall. Commissioner Pappas stated most of the schools have cleaned out old archives and not kept anything. Commissioner Shantz mentioned school newspapers as being a source of information. Karen Bosch Cobb said the resolution should cover all criteria and exceptions. Commissioner Kytile gave some rewording on the Criteria and Resolution. Chairman McFarland questioned about private schools, K-12 .and Colleges. Commissioner Raven stated that referring to just schools keeps it open for criteria. Commissioner Pappas will keep the Commission updated, and her committee will take care of the requests that were made for the Criteria, Agenda, and Resolution. Commissioner Pappas also would like to keep things in chronological order. Karen Bosch Cobb reported that Commissioner Bos wants to be sure the Committee keeps records of meetings and documents resources.

g) Discussion of threatened buildings in the City of Fresno

- (1) Commissioner Hunter inquired about Armenian town. Commissioner Laval spoke of a presentation being given by Heritage Fresno. Commissioner Stevens will set something up with Heritage Fresno for the September meeting.

h) Discussion of threatened building in the County of Fresno - None

9) Reports and Administrative Items

a) Chairman's Report

- i) Election of Officers: Chairman McFarland turned the gavel over to Secretary, Karen Bosch Cobb, who called for nominations of Chairman. It was moved

- ii) Field trips- June 19, 2010 was selected for the SJ & E Old Railroad trip. The trip will be lead by Chairman McFarland. An optional dinner will be available at the end of the trip at Camp Sierra. Karen Coletti gave an update on Commercial Transfer and stated they would really like us to come out and tour facilities. The Commission is interested in doing this in the fall.
 - b) Vice-Chairman's Report: Commissioner Taylor sent word that he is still working on Del Rey.
 - c) Secretary's Report
 - i) Attendance Report – None
 - ii) Status of Vacancies - None
 - iii) Update Roster - None
 - iv) Location of Future meetings - The next meeting will be at Fresno State Madden Library. Commissioner Berkey will be the contact for Madden Library and has been speaking to Susan Christiansen and Tammy Lau, Director of Special Collections in the library. Parking passes would be needed and a tour arranged for 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.
- 10) Announcements
- a) Chairman McFarland spoke about the information that could be found in the Fresno County Libraries own book, A Century of Service.
 - b) Commissioner Hunter reminded Commissioners of Art Hop, June 3rd, 2010 at City Hall; she and Janice Stevens will debut their book, Remembering the California Missions. Commissioners were also reminded of the Fresno Heritage Book Fair at the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies at Riverview Ranch, on September 18, 2010.
 - c) Commissioner Enloe is still working on forms for Masonic Buildings.

- d) Commissioner Raven had Stephanie Booroojian to her home; Stephanie is going to present Huntington Boulevard May 25, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. and 11:00 p.m. on KSEE 24, “We are Fresno”. The segment will air again on May 26, 2010.
- e) Commissioner Laval is also involved with KSEE’s “We Are Fresno”. She has exhibits at the Madden Library, and also will be at Fresno Fair. Commissioner Laval also spoke of the grants on which she is working, her work with the Levy family, and a documentary with KVPT, Channel 18. She is using social media more including a photo a day. 85944 is the cell number for donations to the Pop Laval Foundation. Commissioner Pappas is building a website for the Laval Foundation.
- f) Commissioner Baltierra gave information about grant resources and the California Council for the Humanities.
- g) Commissioner Shantz spoke of school history of Selma and has Selma High School newspaper, *The Clarion*, on microfilm.
- h) Commissioner Olson said Sierra is having an all school reunion. The Eastern Fresno County Historical Society is having their BBQ on June 12th, 2010.
- i) Commissioner Kus gave a talk in Lima, Peru.
- j) Commissioner Stevens did a follow up with John Poultney of Arcadia Publishing which has a place in history research. She wanted to know if our Commission is at all interested in them. She mentioned an upcoming presentation at FCASH on social media. She is getting ready to turn in a second volume of remembrances of Veterans of World War II. There will also be a volume for Vietnam veterans.
- k) Commissioner Catallo reminded commissioners that February 2012 will be the 100 year Clovis birthday. Several Committees are working on a new logo. He said contributions for the Centennial are small because of economic downturn.
- l) Commissioner Kyle is going to Boston with a group of teachers.

	Meetings-2010	
September 16, 2010	3 p.m. Tour 4 p.m. meeting.	Madden Library
November 18, 2010	4 p.m.	Fire House Museum

11) Adjournment 5:58 p.m.