



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District**  
**Park Headquarters**  
**4600 Crestmore Road**  
**Riverside, CA 92509**



**Thursday, March 18, 2010, 1:30 p.m.**

## **MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Charlene Cleary, District I  
Joyce Hohenadl, District I, Vice Chair  
Darrell Farnbach, District III

Robert Lindquist, District III  
Jennie Kelly, District IV  
Muriel Schwartz, District V, Chair  
John Worden, District V

**Members Absent:**

Velma Hickey, District II  
Charolette Fox, District II  
Marc Hendon, Sr., District III

Gerda Hook, District IV

**Staff Present:**

Scott Bangle, General Manager, Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Keith Herron, Historic Preservation Officer (HPO), Regional Park & Open-Space District  
Rebecca Chavez, Secretary II, Regional Park & Open-Space District

**1.0 Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chairman Schwartz.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes:**

M/S/C Lindquist, Farnbach

The November 19, 2009 minutes were approved as presented.

M/S/C Kelly, Farnbach

The January 21, 2010 minutes were approved as presented.

**3.0 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda**

There were no public comments presented.

**4.0 Commissioner Reports – Information**

**District I**

**Commissioner Hohenadl** reported that Aimee Semple McPherson's castle has gone up for sale for 1.4 million dollars. The Lake Elsinore Historical Society (LEHS) has voiced a concern over the sale. Currently the owner of the property has allowed the LEHS to offer tours and is concerned that this will stop with the new owner.

Commissioner Hohenadl mentioned that on January 5 the LEHS hosted a showing of a film on *Bela Lugosi*, who played *Dracula* many years ago. Mr. Lugosi vacationed in Lake Elsinore and owned property on the lake near Grand Avenue near the Elsinore Naval and Military Academy. After a little research, Commissioner Hohenadl found that Mr. Lugosi also owned a park on Grand Avenue and Lillian Road named *Lugosi Park*. Commissioner Hohenadl spoke with HPO Herron regarding the park and found it had been deeded to the City. Commissioner Hohenadl noted that Mr. Lugosi's son went to both the Elsinore Naval & Military School and Elsinore Elementary School.

Commissioner Hohenadl reported that the Historian General of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Washington, D.C. (DAR) has given the Luiseno Chapter permission to place two DAR markers commemorating the Santa Fe Station in Lake Elsinore.

The dedication will take place on April 9, 2010 at 10:30 a.m., on the 122<sup>nd</sup> birthday of the City of Lake Elsinore. The Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce currently occupies the Santa Fe Train Station located at 132 W. Graham Avenue, Lake Elsinore, just off Main Street. The Elsinore Train Station was established by the California Southern Railway Co. in 1896 and has been an ornament to Elsinore. This building provided transportation for passengers, shipments of agricultural products to markets, and new livestock to ranchers for many years.

Commissioner Hohenadl extended an invitation to the dedication and refreshments afterwards inside the train station. She asked for guests to R.S.V.P. to her in advance.

**Commissioner Cleary** reported that many historical buildings and historical items were up for sale in the City of Lake Elsinore. She referred to an article written in the local paper advertising the items and giving additional information.

## **District II**

**Commissioner Fox** was not able to attend the meeting. However, her submitted written report is summarized as follows. Commissioner Fox received an invitation from the Latin American Students Association at UCR to see a presentation of the documentary *Tiburcio Vasquez: The Lost Bandito*. This invitation forced Commissioner Fox to rethink the Historical Commission's look at the awards program. She would like to suggest that the Awards Subcommittee consider expanding its nominations to include a more diverse cultural and historical segment that may be important to the County of Riverside. Commissioner Fox would like to suggest adding this organization to the distribution list for Commission agendas, minutes, and future events. Their contact information is [lasaucr@latinoprojects.org](mailto:lasaucr@latinoprojects.org).

Commissioner Fox noted that the Dorland Art Colony has reopened and the first returning artist has been announced. The Dorland Art Colony is located on Highway 79S about 10 miles east of Temecula. The facility had been completely destroyed by a wildfire and the Dorland Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to rebuild. Commissioner Fox would like to suggest hold a Historical Commission meeting at the site. For more information visit [www.dorlandartscolony.org](http://www.dorlandartscolony.org).

Commissioner Fox reported a chance encounter on a recent flight home from Sacramento with a woman wanting to identify the remains of bones uncovered in a parking lot of an old courthouse being remodeled in San Antonio, Texas. It was believed that several generations of relatives had been buried in the churchyard near the courthouse. Commissioner Fox was able to refer her to Anne Miller, who could aid her in using DNA testing to prove or dismiss the bones as early relatives.

## **District III**

**Commissioner Lindquist** reported many new changes to the Hemet Museum at The Depot. They have painted the building inside and out and are working on their collection management.

Commissioner Lindquist showed a concern for the Hemet Elementary School's future. He said he would like to see the building turned into a museum. HPO Herron noted that if anyone was interested in nominating the school as a landmark to meet with him after the meeting. He did make mention that the school district would have to approve the nomination.

Commissioner Lindquist reported that the 87<sup>th</sup> Ramona Play and Pageant would be moving forward again this year.

**Commissioner Farnbach** briefly educated the Commission that the City of Lake Elsinore hosted the Ramona Play years before the City of Hemet. Commissioner Farnbach reported the loss of the Hyatt Schoolhouse. The school was named after Edward Hyatt, Superintendent of Schools for

Riverside County and later, Superintendent of Schools for the State of California. HPO Herron and Commissioner Farnbach worked together in an attempt to save the school with no success. The school was torn down. Commissioner Farnbach urged the Commission to spend the time it takes to make historical buildings landmarks.

#### **District IV**

**Commissioner Kelly** reported that over the past two months she has given several tours of the North Shore Yacht Club to various groups including but not limited to the board members of the Palm Springs Modern Committee, the Sea & Desert Interpretive Association volunteers, the Salton Sea staff, and the Coachella Valley Historical Preservation Alliance.

Commissioner Kelly participated in a kayak tour of the Salton Sea. She joined members of the Coachella Valley Historical Preservation Alliance for an off-shore view of the Salton Sea. Commissioner Kelly noted that the Salton Sea State Park offers free kayak tours every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. For reservations, call 760-393-3810.

Commissioner Kelly attended a meeting of the Coachella Valley Emergency Preparedness Alliance at the Living Desert. This group provides central locations where storage space and archival materials are available in case of an emergency, such as an earthquake.

Commissioner Kelly had the opportunity to ride in the Indio Date Festival parade with Supervisor Benoit. She used the opportunity to promote the Salton Sea History Museum and the East Valley Historical Society. Commissioner Kelly attended the Open House for Supervisor John Benoit.

Commissioner Kelly joined the contractor RDP/SCI, Holt Architect, and the County of Riverside for a walk-through for the Salton Sea History Museum. She believes all punch list items will be resolved with a final Certificate of Occupancy anticipated.

Commissioner Kelly reported that the University of Redlands would be loaning a solid terrain model of the Salton Sea to be displayed at the Salton Sea Stakeholders Symposium in May.

#### **District V**

**Commissioner Worden** had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Schwartz** had nothing to report.

### **5.0 Park District Staff Reports**

#### **5.1 Capital Improvement Projects**

HPO Herron reported that there was nothing new to report. HPO Herron reported that he was hoping to go to bid on the San Timoteo Schoolhouse in the summer to be completed in the fall.

#### **5.2 Other items of interest**

HPO Herron apologized to the Commission for moving the location of the meeting at the last minute. He stated that the Salton Sea History Museum was not ready for guests. It was asked if the May meeting could be held at the Salton Sea History Museum.

HPO Herron mentioned that he would be attending the Idyllwild Historical Preservation meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to determine whether the County should establish a historic preservation district in Idyllwild's commercial core. HPO Herron explained the process of establishing a historical district through the County, the procedure of changing County ordinances, and establishing landmarks.

HPO Herron announced an upcoming Park District sponsored event, *On the Trail of Juan Bautista*. This event is planned for April 16 & 17, 2010 to be held at both the Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Park and the Carriage House at Park District Headquarters. The cost of the event will be \$25.

HPO Herron announced that Chairman Schwartz will be honored as one of six *Women of Distinction* at a luncheon hosted by Assemblyman Bill Emmerson. The luncheon will be held on March 26 at the Double Tree Hotel in Ontario. The cost of the event will be \$40.

General Manager Bangle took a moment to announce that the Park District had been honored by the California Park & Recreation Society with three awards; two awards of merit and one award of excellence. The awards were given for marketing techniques and a brochure produced by the Park District. This is a high honor by the California Park & Recreation Society and General Manager Bangle was very proud of the District.

General Manager Bangle also announced that the Park District received an award given by the Board of Supervisors for the biggest increase from one year to the next for their contributions to the Employee Campaign.

## **6.0 Subcommittee Reports:**

### **6.1 Publications Subcommittee Report**

HPO Herron noted that the Publications Subcommittee had not met since the last meeting. He updated the Commission with the progress of the upcoming issue of the Riverside County Chronicles. HPO Herron said that the next issue was close to print.

### **6.2 Awards Subcommittee Report**

Commissioner Cleary had nothing new to report. HPO Herron stated that at this time, he had not received any new nominations.

### **6.3 Archives Commission Report**

Commissioner Fox was not available for the meeting, therefore no report was given.

## **7.0 Old Business**

### **7.1 Heritage Tourism Subcommittee**

Commissioner Worden expressed how happy he was to hear that the Park District had received an award for the brochure. He noted that since the City of Riverside no longer had a Visitor's Bureau, the Mission Inn had become more of a virtual visitor center. He said his staff uses the brochure to educate visitors of the local places to visit. Commissioner Worden forwarded an invitation to the Commission that if anyone was interested in being a part of the Heritage Tourism Subcommittee to see him after the meeting.

Commissioner Worden reported that approximately 1200 people attend the gala opening of the Fox Theater. The event was a black-tie gala and good reviews were received. The Mission Inn has expressed an interest in hosting tours through the theater. The arrangements are still under discussion.

## **8.0 Next Meeting:** May 20, 2010 @ 1:30 p.m. at the Salton Sea History Museum.

HPO Herron reminded the Commission that the selection of new officers would be held in July. He suggested that the Commission consider the nominations.

Commissioner Worden suggested inviting Jim Hofer from the County Archives office to do a short presentation. HPO Herron said he would speak with Mr. Hofer.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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Keith Herron, Historic Preservation Officer, for  
Scott Bangle, General Manager/Parks Director  
Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and  
Secretary to the Historical Commission