



RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Park District Headquarters  
4600 Crestmore Road  
Riverside, CA 92509



Thursday, September 16, 2010, 1:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

### Members Present:

Charlene Cleary, District I	Marc Hendon, Sr., District III
Joyce Hohenadl, District I, Chair	Jennie Kelly, District IV
Darrell Farnbach, District III, Vice Chair	John Worden, District V
Robert Lindquist, District III	

### Members Absent:

Velma Hickey, District II	District IV vacancy
Charolette Fox, District II	District V vacancy

### Staff Present:

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

### Guests:

Linda Ridenour, Lake Elsinore Historical Society (LEHS)  
Ruth Atkins, LEHS  
Floyd Berger, LEHS  
Jim Hofer, County Archivist, Riverside County Assessor

### 1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chairman Hohenadl, and self-introductions were made.

### 2.0 Approval of Minutes:

M/S/C Kelly, Lindquist

The July 22, 2010 minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Steve Johnson did attend the July 22, 2010 meeting

Page 3 of 5, Rob Lindquist: ...past perfect 5 through the American Association of State and local history...

### 3.0 Special Presentation

The Commission thanked General Manager Scott Bangle for the video presentation on the Park District's 20th birthday celebration.

### 4.0 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission

There was no public input.

Chair Hohenadl mentioned that Ruth Atkins, a member of the Lake Elsinore Historical Society, was in the audience and here to support the Elsinore Naval and Military School nomination.

### 5.0 Commissioner Reports

#### District I

**Commissioner Cleary** noted that on September 11, Ms. Hildebrandt dedicated a plaque to the Chimes. She showed the plaque to the Commission.

Commissioner Cleary reported that a new book was due to be released about the Mighty Martin Mars. These were the world's largest flying boats ever flown operationally.

Commissioners Cleary and Hohenadl will pick up a few of these books and share with the Commission at a future meeting.

**Commissioner Hohenadl** reported that on Saturday, September 11, the Valley of the Mist Chapter, National Society of the Colonial Dames placed a marker at the Crescent Bath House. Commissioners Cleary and Hohenadl attended. Tours and refreshments were offered after the ceremony by the Chamber of Commerce at the Santa Fe Station, which is across the street from the bath house.

The Lake Elsinore Historical Society Museum, on Main Street, is now closed. The owners, Jerry and Nadine Harmatz, owners sold the store. The owners had allowed the Historical Society to rent the space for free. All items in the museum were brought to the Research Library and Museum on Main and Heald streets. The Historical Society has been sorting through the items, keeping what is needed for the museum, and storing the rest of the items.

On March 22, volunteers removed the engines out of the Elsinore Princess and transported them to a business in Fontana, where they will overhaul the two Detroit engines. Other volunteers worked to remove the old Styrofoam and vinyl from the overhead compartment. Under the Styrofoam ceiling, a beautiful, dark wood was found. It was decided to leave the original wood. The volunteers continue to work bilge pumps and repairing the leaks. The volunteers have posted a sign that states the project is under restoration.

### **District II**

No representatives for District II were available.

### **District III**

**Commissioner Farnbach** reported that a developer was still looking for financing for the Vail Ranch headquarters site. This is an estimated \$7 million project. The developer is working with the city to eliminate some cost of the more costly features i.e., excessive landscaping, moving one of the structures, and building a new commercial building. The headquarters site has been recently used for publicity photos for a local production of "Fiddler on the Roof" and a short 48-hour film was shot on the ranch site.

The Historical Society, under the leadership of Dick Fox, husband of Commissioner Fox, has just completed the Historic 395 sign project through the City of Temecula to the San Diego County line. Mr. Fox worked with City, County, and other organizations to help raise the funds to purchase and install the signs. Commissioner Farnbach showed a sample of the new signs. He said that the signs were currently running through Southwest Riverside County, mostly parallel to the 15 Freeway.

Commissioner Farnbach invited the Commission to have a future meeting at the Little Temecula History Center. He offered a tour of the ranch following the meeting.

**Commissioner Lindquist** reported that Robert C. Smith gave a presentation to the Hemet Historical Society on Idyllwild and the local mountains. He brought along some very nice pictures. Mr. Smith helped with the local museum and helped build the structure in the back.

Commissioner Lindquist recently heard that, due to financial difficulties, the owner of the Martins Theater in Hemet, built in 1923, sold the seats in the theater. The money was used to help pay for the actual structure.

Commissioner Lindquist also suggested a site for a future Historical Commission meeting, the San Jacinto Museum.

**Commissioner Hendon** reported that Stage Coach Days in Banning had come and gone. The San Geronio Pass Historical Society has opened the museum during several days of the week. Commissioner Hendon reported that he has heard nothing from the City on their plans for the San Geronio Inn. The San Geronio Inn was pending demolition.

## **District IV**

**Commissioner Kelly** reported that the Salton Sea History Museum was in the process of developing its newest exhibit "Early Days on the North Shore." The exhibit will open on October 16. This will coincide with the new winter hours, closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Salton Sea Museum has an estimated 2,000 visitors from 22 states and 8 countries.

The Museum has gotten many requests for various events at the North Shore Yacht Club and Museum. One of those events is Great Autos of Yesteryear scheduled for October 31. The public is welcome to view the antique autos from 11 am to 2:30 pm.

Commissioner Kelly reported that during the months of July and August, the Coachella Valley Emergency Preparedness Network sponsored disaster response classes for its members. Julie Page from the California Preservation Program, a division of Westpas, ably directed members in how to deal with emergency events affecting historical collections.

On September 15, Commissioner Kelly gave a presentation on the History of the Salton Sea at the annual meeting of the California Garden Club. The Salton Sea History Museum has started a fundraising effort to allow them to purchase PastPerfect and various archival supplies to protect their growing collections. Commissioner Kelly has been working with Laurie Mulhauser, who has many years of non-profit experience, to help develop their office procedures and fundraising.

Recently, Elizabeth Mortenson, Legislative Assistant to Mary Bono Mack, visited the Salton Sea site. She has been assigned to work on issues affecting the Salton Sea. She is working on a plan to "Save the Sea".

Commissioner Kelly noted that the huge boat racing event previously scheduled for December has been rescheduled to the third week in January. This change was to accommodate the offshore racers who will be on the east coast in December. This event will include the historic Salton Sea 500, speed trials, and an offshore race. The promoter expects in excess of 20,000 spectators and participants. An exhibit of the past Salton Sea boat will be on display during the months of December and January to coincide with the event. Commissioner Kelly is looking for volunteers to help with this event.

## **District V**

**Commissioner Worden** had no report at this time.

### **6.0 Park District Staff Reports**

#### **CIP Projects:**

HPO Herron provided an update on the San Timoteo Schoolhouse CIP project. The rest room has been ordered and should be delivered in October.

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

HPO Herron noted that there were currently two vacancies are on the Historical Commission; One recently vacated by Gerda Hook representing District IV, and the other recently vacated by Muriel Schwartz representing District V. Thank you letters have been sent to both Muriel Schwartz and Gerda Hook for their service to both the County and the Historical Commission.

At the request of Commissioner Cleary, HPO Herron looked into the concern of the demolition of the San Gorgonio Inn in Banning, California. The Historical Commission found the Inn to be eligible as a County landmark, however, the City and the owner did not approve of that nomination. HPO Herron has spoken with the City of Banning's Development Director and in July the City voted to accept the EIR to demolish the building. HPO Herron requested to allow the Historical Commission to tour the facility prior to the demolition but it was declined stating that it was a public health and safety issue. There was some question as to the contents of the building. It was noted that items from Ulysses S. Grant, Wyatt Earp, and other notable people were left in the building as well as old hardware. HPO Herron mentioned that he had photographs of the interior and noted that most of it was gone. HPO Herron said he would ask the City.

He suggested that the Historical Commission write a letter urging the City or owner to deposit these items with the Historical Society or Museum in Banning.

HPO Herron announced that as part of its 2000 Architectural Life Time Achievement, the Palm Springs Modern Committee presented an award to Commissioner Kelly in recognition for her work with the Committee.

## **7.0 Subcommittee Reports:**

### **7.1 Publications Subcommittee Report**

Commissioner Hendon announced that the next issue of the Chronicles is expected to be released in October or November. Currently, there are over 80 paid subscriptions.

Commissioner Hendon noted that he would like to see the Historical Commission revise the old Historic Landmarks book as it is out of date. Additional information could be incorporated into a newer version for local, State, and federal landmarks. Commissioner Hendon suggested Arcadia as publisher.

### **7.2 Awards Subcommittee Report**

Commissioner Cleary said that the 2010 Award was given to Barbara Maron for her work with the Cabot Museum. She was glad to see that the Museum was open more frequently. It was commented that Ms. Maron deserved the award.

HPO Herron suggested that the subcommittees work together to create a report on the possibility of a new version of the Historic Landmark Book as well as other avenues they may want to take for awards and how to make this program better known.

Commissioner Worden wondered if perhaps there could be a secondary function that the Publications Subcommittee could consider and that would be to do a digital piece on the awardees. This could be networked through the Historical Consortium to spread the word about the awards.

HPO Herron noted that this could also be put in the Journal. The Park District website could be used for digital promotions about the program.

### **7.3 Archives Commission Report**

Due to the illness of Commissioner Fox, there was no report. However, Jim Hofer, County Archivist, attended the meeting and reported that the Archives Commission will meet on November 20 at the Gilman Ranch. He noted that the Archives Commission puts out a new bookmarker each year. For those interested, he had several with him on hand. Mr. Hofer noted that the Archives Commission currently has one vacancy open in District II. He commented that due to recent retirements, it has caused a new direction for him and has compromised some of his time on the archives.

It was noted that the Archives Commission will begin looking for a centrally located, larger facility for the County archives. They are also looking into creating a volunteer program for the County Archives center. He noted an open house had been held for the National Archives Branch in Perris, which opened in March. It is located at 23123 Cajalco Road, Perris, California. The office number is 951-956-2000 and web address is [riverside.archives@nara.gov](mailto:riverside.archives@nara.gov).

## **8.0 Old Business**

### **8.1 San Timoteo Schoolhouse Interpretation Plan**

HPO Herron presented a draft copy of the interpretation plan for the San Timoteo Schoolhouse. Over the last eight years the County has funded over \$1 million for this project. An important element of this plan is to identify the time period that is key to the history of building. The interpretive theme and collections will then be developed. HPO Herron outlined the organizing principles of the schoolhouse. Primary period of emphasis begins with the construction starting at around 1883.

The themes that come out of the eras include the schoolhouse, a center of the community and the area, the largest history of the canyon, and a preservation theme. Methodology to do this includes a classroom setting, interpreting education of that day, and small areas of exhibits to show other local history components in the canyon. An outdoor kiosk will touch on the preservation theme. A couple of special events would be done throughout the year. The Park District will continue its discussions with the San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse Committee, the San Gorgonio Pass, and any of the Historical Commissioners who would like to join in the conversation. The furnishings, reproduction of clothing, and original artifacts are also being looked into to tell the interpretive story. HPO Herron's recommendation to the Park District's General Manager would be to pursue the acquisitions by purchase or donation. HPO Herron suggested to the Commissioners that if they have input for the story or items to contact the Park District. A cyclical maintenance plan has also been completed.

## **9.0 New Business**

### **9.1 Historic Landmark Nomination Presentation**

HPO Herron asked the Commission to find the Elsinore Naval and Military School eligible as a Historical Landmark.

HPO Herron felt that this was a well written nomination and has high merit. Because the owners have not given approval of the nomination, the Commission can only find it eligible for nomination. Ms. Ruth Atkins, Lake Elsinore Historical Society, gave a brief history of the condition of the site and mentioned the current owners name as the Garret Group. She commented that it was in good condition when the owners received the property. The Lake Elsinore Historical Society would appreciate approval today to prevent demolition of the property. Commissioner Cleary mentioned that she has been trying for ten years to get this property saved. She has been involved with the local city council to save this facility.

Commissioner Hohenadl has also been very involved with the military academy. Commissioner Hohenadl commented that it is a beautiful building but has been neglected terribly. She showed pictures of the facility. She feels it could have been a good project for the Park District. The prior Park District General Manger was asked to consider taking over this property. Before he was the State Preservation officer, Wayne Donaldson, completed a report on the military academy and the report mentioned how well built it is.

M/S/C Farnbach, Lindquist

The Commission approved the Elsinore Naval and Military School nomination to be eligible as a Historical Landmark.

### **9.2 Revisions to Ordinance 578 – The Establishment of County Historic Preservation Districts**

HPO Herron presented the draft of the newly revised Ordinance 578 and reported on the progress to change the current ordinance, which affects incorporated areas. There was a lot of outdated language. It was redrafted and incorporated by referencing the California Historic Building Code. The California Preservation Code allows some flexibility in what changes you make to the building. The Ordinance does involve participation by the Park District and the Historical Commission. HPO Herron mentioned the steps for creation of a historic preservation district and how it goes to the Board of Supervisors.

The next phase of the ordinance would be to create a local board that supervises how the districts are organized and how to use design guidelines to protect the property. Involvement by the Historical Commission would be that applications go the Parks General Manager and then forwarded to the Historical Commission for recommendation to the Planning Director. A historic resource survey would have to be done first. The Historical

Commission would see an application that is backed by the research of a historic resources survey.

HPO Herron noted that preventing demolition until it can be reviewed is a significant change to the old ordinance.

Commissioner Worden noted that individual buildings are required to gain the permission of the owner. He asked, "How does this work at a district level?" HPO Herron noted that this is not in the revised ordinance. Commissioner Worden also asked if there were a minimum number of buildings that constitute a district. HPO Herron noted that this would be based on the district.

M/S/C Hendon, Lindquist

The Historical Commission supports the draft of Ordinance 578, the establishment of County Historical Preservations Districts.

**10.0 Next Meeting:** January 20, 2010 @ 1:30 pm at the San Timoteo Schoolhouse.

**11.0 Adjournment**

M/S/C Fox, Kelly

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 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