



RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

San Geronio Pass Historical Society
Meets at the Beaumont Women's Club
306 E. Sixth Street
Beaumont, CA 92223



Thursday, March 17, 2011, 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present:

Charlene Cleary, District I	Virginia Ridgway, District IV
Darrell Farnbach, District III, Vice Chair	Herb Spencer, Jr., District V
Marc Hendon, Sr., District III	
Jennie Kelly, District IV	

Members Absent:

Joyce Hohenadl, District I, Chair	Robert Lindquist, District III
Charolette Fox, District II	John Worden, District V
Velma Hickey, District II	

Guest(s):

Gail Wesson, Press Enterprise
Jerry Cody, District V Representative, District Advisory Commissioner
Chris Tracy, City of Beaumont
Ashley Thompson, City of Beaumont
Virginia Ross, President, San Geronio Pass Historical Society
Marilyn Vonderheide, Laura May Stewart Foundation
Kenneth and Margaret Holtzclaw, San Geronio Pass Historical Society

Staff Present:

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 1:33 p.m. by Vice Chair Farnbach, and self-introductions were made, see above.

Vice Chair Farnbach introduced Virginia (Ginger) Ridgway. Commissioner Ridgway was recently appointed by Supervisor Benoit to represent the Fourth District.

2.0 Approval of Minutes:

M/S/C Kelly, Spencer

The January 20, 2011 minutes were approved as presented.

3.0 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission

Chris Tracy, Planning Department, City of Beaumont announced that the City of Beaumont is working on a plan to install a number of historical signs and markings through a section of town referred to as the *Barrio Railroad Historical District*. Mr. Tracy handed out a copy of the attached plan to the Commissioners and guests. He asked that suggestions and comments be directed to him after the meeting. He introduced Ashley Thompson, also with the City of Beaumont, and noted that she would be working on a historical brochure for the City of Beaumont and the surrounding area. He asked that suggestions or comments be directed to Ms. Thompson after the meeting.

4.0 Commissioner Reports

District I

Commissioner Cleary had nothing to report.

District II

No one from District II was available.

District III

Commissioner Farnbach reported that the Temecula Valley Historical Society (TVHS) is working with a Highway 395 organization to increase the awareness of the historic highway. TVHS is selling miniature 395 Highway signs for \$25. If interested, please see Commissioner Farnbach.

Commissioner Farnbach reported that Commissioner Hendon spoke at the last TVHS meeting on the history of Wyatt Earp.

Commissioner Farnbach and his wife recently attended a conference hosted by the Southern Chapter of the California Oregon Trails Association. The event was held at the Borrego Springs Resort in Borrego Springs. He listed the various events that he and his wife participated in. Commissioner Farnbach recommended the reading of a book called *Ranchos of San Diego County* by Lynne Christenson and Ellen Sweet.

Commissioner Hendon reported that the City of Banning has begun the planning phase for its 100th birthday celebration scheduled for the year 2013. He commented that he recently participated in a tour of the San Geronio Inn that is slated for demolition this month. He reported that there is nothing of value left in the building. A roll-top desk and some menus were among some of the items removed before the scheduled demolition. Commissioner Hendon reported that the San Geronio Memorial Hospital recently celebrated its 60th birthday.

District IV

Commissioner Kelly reported that the Salton Sea History Museum recently paired up with the Sea and Desert Interpretive Association at the Riverside County National Date Festival. The festival ran from February 18-27. They had two booths, manned by volunteers from both the Museum and Interpretive Association, and educating onlookers of the history of the Salton Sea.

On Presidents Day, Commissioner Kelly participated in the annual Date Festival Parade representing the Museum and Community Council for the North Shore.

Commissioner Kelly reported that the visitor numbers are growing. Some of the visitors to the Museum are: the Concourse D 'elegance and their 100+ European autos, a number of groups from the College of the Desert, the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society, the Coachella Valley Desert Camera Club, the Anza-Borrego Natural History Association, and the Anza-Borrego Foundation. She announced that the Salton Sea History Museum would be presenting the *Valley of the Ancient Lake: Works Inspired by the Salton Sea* during the month of April. For more information, visit www.saltonseamuseum.org.

Commissioner Kelly reported that several film crews continue to use the Museum for various projects including but not limited to the History Channel and a group of students from Chapman College, who are doing a video on the history of the Salton Sea.

Commissioner Ridgway was introduced by HPO Herron. Commissioner Ridgway was recently appointed by Supervisor Benoit to represent District IV. HPO Herron gave a brief history of Commissioner Ridgway.

Commissioner Ridgway had nothing to report.

District V

Commissioner Spencer had nothing to report.

5.0 Park District Staff Reports

HPO Herron reported that the San Timoteo Schoolhouse project is complete. He announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for March 26 at 10:00 am. He noted that all were invited to attend. HPO Herron thanked Jerry Cody, Chairman of the Schoolhouse Committee, for his involvement in the project and the various items he donated to the Schoolhouse. He thanked the San Gorgonio Historical Society for their donation of three vintage desks and Virginia Ross for her donation of two original cupboards.

Commissioner Farnbach noted that the letter of support for the Southern Trails Chapter and Utah Crossroads Chapter of the Oregon California Trails Association that had been approved at the last meeting had been prepared and was ready for signature.

6.0 Subcommittee Reports:

6.1 Publications Subcommittee Report

HPO Herron reported that he had contacted the publishing house, History Press, regarding the possibility of updating the Riverside County Landmark book. He sent them a copy of the current release to review and they will respond back to him regarding other opportunities. They sent him a copy of their guidelines. HPO Herron will follow up at a later date.

HPO Herron reported that the next issue of the *Riverside County Chronicles* is due to release in May.

6.2 Awards Subcommittee Report

Nothing to report.

6.3 Archives Commission Report

HPO Herron met with Jim Hofer a couple of weeks prior. One of two items discussed was the possibility of a joint venture with the Historical Commission and the Archives Commission to transcribe a list of oral histories. The Archives Commission is very interested in this project. HPO Herron and Mr. Hofer are scheduled to meet again to do a full inventory of what the project will involve. He asked that anyone interested in working on this project contact him.

The other item discussed was the idea of republishing or updating the profiles book on the County officials. The Archives Commission would take the lead on the project, doing the data research and then come back to the Historical Commission to complete the project. He again asked if anyone was interested in this project to contact him.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Historical Preservation District

M/S/C Kelly, Spencer

The Commission approved the application for the creation of a Historic Preservation District in the town of Idyllwild which is located in the central commercial area of the town.

This request would reflect Ordinance 578 (attached).

HPO Herron referred to the attached map, application, and Historic Resources Survey. There was some discussion on Ordinance 578 and how it would affect the local residents. It was noted that this would be the first preservation district for the County. HPO Herron reported that there had been many meetings inviting the public prior to the approval of the ordinance and there was no major opposition reported.

7.2 Strategic Plan Update

HPO Herron gave a report on behalf of General Manager Bangle on the status of the Strategic Plan. He commented that many people responded to the community meetings.

and many comments were received. The Plan is scheduled to be completed in May. Once done, HPO Herron will bring the Plan before the Commission.

8.0 Next Meeting:

8.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 1:30 pm at the Salton Sea History Museum.

10.0 Adjournment

M/S/C Farnbach, Kelly

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.



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