

Historical Landmarks & Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held in the Sarah McCardle Room in the Main Library on May 10, 2007.

Members present: Nancy Enloe, Aileen Bos, Susan Pappas, Peg Bos, Steve Barile, Randy McFarland, Penny Raven, Jim Kus
 Members absent: Don Shantz, Bud Olson, Roger Taylor, Judy Ganulin
 Others present: Elida Mendoza, Karen Bosch Cobb, John Baltierra, Theresa Thompson, Gary Nipp, Janet Dailey, John Zaninovich, Brian Ross, Melinda Ybarra

AGENDA ITEMS

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy McFarland.
2. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved with some changes in the order of the items scheduled.
3. Comments from the Public: None.
4. Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2007: The minutes were approved as distributed.
5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations were held for the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair. Chairman McFarland and Vice-Chairman Roger Taylor were unanimously re-elected to their respective positions for another four years.

6. Records

Record Type	Schedule Number	Department	Recommend Commission Review
Land Use Application Files	1575.07.02	Public Works & Planning	Yes
The records contained in this schedule are permanent land use application records. Brian Ross from Public Works/Planning Land Use division explained that the paper files can be destroyed once they are imaged. A commercial microfilming company is used by the department. There were no further questions, and it was moved by Commissioner Raven, seconded by Commissioner Kus and carried to approve the retention schedule as recommended by staff for approval by the Board of Supervisors.			
Design Division Records	1575.06.01	Public Works & Planning	Yes
Janet Dailey and John Zaninovich from Public Works/Planning Design division were present to discuss these records. There were no major concerns, and Ms. Susan Thompson said that the County has an agreement with an outside vendor to back up these records to add a level of security. It was moved by Commissioner Barile, seconded by Commissioner Pappas and carried to approve the retention schedule as recommended by staff for approval by the Board of Supervisors.			
Criminal Investigation Files	1350.04.03	District Attorney	Continued
This agenda item was continued from the March meeting. Ms. Melinda Ybarra from the District Attorney's office described these files as confidential criminal investigation files that are not accessible to the public. Commissioners were concerned about the procedure for preserving files such as those involving prominent cases. Ms. Ybarra said it is up to the department to decide which cases should be kept in the historical archives, and that they do consider the public's interest regarding such cases. She also said that the District Attorney's office keeps between 43,000 and 45,000 files a year, and the Three Strikes Law is having an impact on the number of files being stored. There was some discussion about information that is made public in newspapers and other news reports about an individual's past criminal history. Commissioners asked if the media has access to confidential files. Ms. Ybarra said the media often gathers information from court records which are available to the public after a case has ended, not from the District Attorney's office.			

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- d) Centennial Businesses
 - 1) Sassano's Men's Wear – Sassano's Men's Wear was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 24, 2007. Commissioner Peg Bos said they were featured in the local Clovis magazine.
 - e) Courthouse Park grounds markers/memorials and sculptures
 - 1) Courthouse Park Brochure – Mrs. Bosch Cobb reported that the brochure was published and copies were distributed to each member of the Commission. They will be distributed through the Fresno County Office of Tourism, the Board of Supervisors, the Visitors Bureau, and various other locations. Commissioners were very pleased with the final publication.
 - e) Discussion of threatened buildings in downtown Fresno
 - 1) A question arose at a previous meeting as to whether the Basque Hotel is on the County's List of Historic Places. Mrs. Bosch Cobb confirmed that the Basque Hotel at 1102 F Street in Fresno is listed as site #172.
 - g) Discussion of threatened buildings in the County of Fresno – No discussion.
9. Reports and Administrative Action Items
- a) Chairman's Report
 - 1) Sesquicentennial Book – Progress is being made on the book. Chairman McFarland gave a brief update about this project.
 - 2) Spring Field Trip – Several Commissioners commented about the trip to Coalinga and the Kreyenhagen Ranch. A highlight of the tour was when the group was met by a posse on horseback handing out Joaquin Murrieta "wanted" posters. Mr. Kreyenhagen invited the group back for a trip to the hot springs on the other side of the ranch.
 - 3) Subcommittee to develop an historic preservation ordinance
 - a) Response from Alan Weaver, Director, Fresno County Public Works and Planning: A letter was sent to Mr. Weaver regarding the development of standards to address historic preservation issues within Fresno County. He responded that this request will be considered as a part of the Zoning Ordinance update process. This process will involve a workshop with the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission. Mrs. Bosch Cobb's office will be notified when the workshop date is set. Commissioners agreed that no further action was needed at this time.
 - 4) Consider changing meetings to 3rd Thursday of the month – It was moved by Commissioner Barile, seconded by Commission Kus and carried to approve changing the meeting dates to the 3rd Thursday of the month. The meetings for the remainder of 2007 will be on September 20 and November 15. Meeting locations will vary depending on meeting room availability.
 - 5) Consider adoption of resolution for Catherine Rehart – A letter of resignation was received from Commissioner Rehart. She is moving out of the area for health reasons, and she will be living in Oregon City with her daughter. A resolution of appreciation was drafted to recognize Commissioner Rehart for her contributions to the Commission and the community. It was moved by Commissioner Barile,

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seconded by Commissioner Peg Bos, and carried to adopt the resolution and to recommend adoption by the Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Bosch Cobb will talk to Commissioner Rehart to find a suitable date for her. Commissioners will be notified when the date is set.

- 6) Other – Chairman McFarland apologized for setting today's meeting at 5 p.m. He explained that by the time the notice was received from the City Historic Preservation Commission that they would not be attending, it was too late to make changes to the schedule. The City Commission expected a different agenda format and offered to meet with Historic Landmarks Commission representatives to develop an agenda for a meeting on another date. Commissioners briefly discussed how to proceed, and they concurred with Mrs. Bosch Cobb's suggestion to postpone meeting with the City until they know the outcome of the workshop on the County Ordinance Code.

Chairman McFarland added that if it the City Commission's intention to meet only to discuss the application process, the Commission can work on this on its own.

b) Vice-Chairman's Report - No report.

c) Secretary's Report

- 1) Attendance Report – A printed report was distributed to all Commissioners. There was no discussion.

- 2) Status of Vacancies

- a) There are currently four Commission-appointed vacancies and one vacancy appointed by the Board of Supervisors that was created by the resignation of Commissioner Rehart. Mrs. Bosch Cobb said an application was received by Mr. John Baltierra of Firebaugh, and suggested it be reviewed Chairman McFarland and her. Chairman McFarland added that he expects to receive an application from Ms. Elizabeth Laval.

- b) Sample Application Forms – Samples of the application forms used by the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Commission were distributed.

- d) Commissioners' Reports - Commissioner Raven announced that there is an article in the current issue of Fresno Magazine about the historic homes that will be on the May 19 historic home tour.

10. Announcements

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 4 p.m. The location will be announced.

Mrs. Bosch Cobb thanked everyone for their dedication to the Commission, and she said the refreshments served at the beginning of today's meeting were a good opportunity to show appreciation.

11. Adjourn – There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned 6:45 p.m.