

Historical Landmarks and Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held at the Pop Laval Gallery on March 18, 2010.

Members present: Randy McFarland (arrived late), Aileen Bos, Don Shantz, Roger Taylor, Pat Hunter, Nancy Enloe, John Baltierra, Bud Olson, David Berkey, Penny Raven, Janice Stevens, Lou Catallo, Stephen Barile, Ethan Kytile, and Susan Pappas.

Members absent: Elizabeth Laval, James Kus

Others present: Mike Biglow, Sharon Hiigel, Merilee Amos, and Scott Haugland. Staff: Karen Bosch Cobb, Bill Secrest Jr, Karen Coletti.

Agenda Items

- 1) Co-Chairman Roger Taylor called meeting to order.
- 2) Welcome: Co-Chairman Taylor welcomed Commissioners and visitors.
- 3) Adoption of Agenda: added addendum 8.b) 2) the Miller Home to be heard after Item 4.
- 4) Approval of Minutes:
 - a) Page 1 - Vernie Rogers instead of Vernie Ruiz.
 - b) Page 2 - Item 8a should say Commissioner Raven moved to approve.
 - c) Page 3 - Vernie Rogers instead of Bernie.
 - d) Page 6 - Commissioner Raven recommended replacing "motion to approve" with "moved to approve."
 - e) Page 6 - Commissioner Pappas was not present at January meeting.
 - f) Commissioner Pappas moved to approve the corrected minutes, second by Commissioner Baltierra; motion carried.
- 5) Comments from the Public-None
- 6) California History & Genealogy Room - Bill Secrest Jr. shared three photos. The first was a hand colored photo of Big Creek from the 20's or 30's. The second was a commemorative certificate from Southern California Edison Company. David Redinger, who wrote "The Story of Big Creek" and was the Big Creek Project's long-time resident engineer, had signed the certificate. The third was a panoramic picture of Big Creek.
- 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 approved Sierra Sky Park as a Historical District on January 26, 2010.
 - ii) The Board of Supervisors considered the Commission's recommendation to approve Old Fig Garden as a Historic District on March 2, 2010 but did not approve the recommendation (4 no, 1 yes). The Board gave the Commission 90 days to bring back a revision. Board members were concerned about the inclusion of certain commercial property and believed some portions should be excluded. In the afternoon session at the Board on the same date, there was an agenda item on the moratorium of lots in the Fig Garden area, a proposal that was approved. There were not many people from the Fig Garden Homeowners Association present at the Board meeting. Subsequent to the Board meeting, Louise Yenovkian, Chairman McFarland, Bernard Jimenez and Karen Bosch Cobb met to discuss next steps. At the March 18 Commission meeting, guests Mike Biglow and Merilee Amos provided information on behalf of Louise Yenovkian, who recommended a boundary change and the elimination of the commercial property in question. Merilee Amos, representing Louise Yenovkian, explained how much the Association appreciates everything the Commission is doing. Merilee offered the website of www.oldfig.org for any updates or information on Old Fig Garden. Maps showing boundaries, and commercial and residential areas were reviewed by the Commission. Commissioner Raven asked for an explanation of the zones; Mike Biglow gave an explanation of the zoning. Commissioner Taylor added information regarding zoning as related to lot sizes. Commissioner Shantz moved to approve the revised map and to take the item back to the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Commissioner Berkey; motion carried.
 - iii) Chairman McFarland arrived and assumed the chair. He asked Karen Bosch Cobb to introduce the application of the Miller House. Scott Haugland, who completed the application, went over it. He gave two corrections: on page 2 item 14 should be March 6 2010. On page 3 Item 18 the structure was moved from original site in 2005. The original location was about three-fourths a mile away. Chairman McFarland asked Scott to go through the application for the Commission. Scott is on the Historical Society of Sanger and on the Sanger Planning Commission. Commissioner Enloe spoke of the beauty of the home. Chairman McFarland asked if it was in the County or the City limits and whether we had notified the City of Sanger. Staff stated that they would notify the City of Sanger. The owner is Supervisor Case's husband. Some of the home's structure has been altered. Commissioner Pappas asked that additional photographs be submitted. Commissioner Taylor pointed out the roof change; the picture window is not original window. It was also mentioned that it would be interesting to have history of the home in its early years. Bill Secrest, Jr. offered help with history of the home. Karen Bosch Cobb gave the dates of the next meeting and the time frame for returning a

revised application. Commissioner Taylor moved to table the application, seconded by Commissioner Shantz; motion carried.

- iv) Suggestions for new applications - Commissioner Taylor spoke of the R.C. Baker home in Coalinga.
- c) Centennial Farms - None
- d) Centennial Businesses - Karen Bosch Cobb stated that she had sent letters to the oldest family businesses listed in the Fresno Business Journal. Letters were sent to Betts Spring Company, the Business Journal, Pacific Tent & Awning, and Electric Laboratories. Chairman McFarland said he would check on farms within the Westlands Water District. Commissioner Berkey spoke with Realtor John Stewart about mid 19th century Fresno families. Chairman McFarland spoke of his interest in Camp Sierra.
- e) Centennial Communities - Reviewed annually in January.
- f) Centennial Schools - Commissioner Pappas distributed a history of Fresno Unified School District along with a map of boundaries of school districts. The establishment of Centennial Schools has become quite complicated due to the fact that most schools are not on their original site. The two lists are Fresno Unified, and Fresno City schools and the resource *Celebrating the Journey*, which designated the high school districts. Commissioner Pappas explained about name and sites changing but not lineage. Bill Secrest Jr. said he could be of help with this. Chairman McFarland also gave information on where else to look for information. Commissioner Baltierra wanted clarification on schools being moved from original sites. Commissioner Pappas stated that the High Schools were much more established. Commissioner Olson said many districts combined and that he would work with the mountain communities. County schools and County libraries were once under the County Library Commissioner Kytile suggested getting High School AP students to research. Karen Bosch Cobb stated that a resolution needed to be developed for approval by the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Berkey questioned about private schools. Chairman McFarland asks if there were any private schools that would qualify for a Centennial School. They should be considered as well. Commissioner Baltierra, Commissioner Laval, Commissioner Stevens, Commissioner Hunter, Commissioner Olson, and Chairman McFarland all stated they would help with this.
- g) Discussion of threatened buildings in the City of Fresno - Commissioner Taylor spoke of a home on L Street that sustained serious fire damage. It is on the City's historical list. Commissioner Taylor thought the home could be restored. There is also one on same street that is in process of being restored. The home is owned by the Fresno Institute for Urban Leadership, a Christian based group training people in this area for restoration of historical sites. They are having a

block party on April 8, 2010, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Armenian Town has five vacant homes waiting to be relocated to permanent sites near Santa Clara Street and Van Ness Avenue. The historic gas station at Third and E streets has also been sold. Commissioner Baltierra spoke of foundation problems at Westside Drugs in Firebaugh.

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

9) Reports and Administrative Items

a) Chairman's Report: Chairman McFarland would like to plan another field trip and is still looking for ideas. Suggestions included Mendota, Mercey Hot Springs in Panoche, Los Gatos Canyon, and a County Records tour. Karen Bosch Cobb spoke of the ever popular SJ & E tour. Commissioner Shantz spoke of Coalinga Museum.

b) Vice-Chairman's Report: Commissioner Taylor introduced his wife Rita Taylor. He asked Sharon Hiigel to present information regarding the Historical Home Tour which is the second weekend in May. National Historical Preservation week starts on May 9, 2010. The Del Rey book written by David Masumoto gave some important information to Mr. Taylor in his research on Del Rey. The Community Service District provided a map. Commissioner Taylor pointed out that the Water Tower in Eaton Plaza is receiving repairs and is lighted in the evening.

c) Secretary's Report

(1) Attendance Report - None

(2) Status of Vacancies - There are none.

(3) Update Roster - Distributed with meeting packets.

(4) Location of Future meetings - The next meeting will be at Commercial Transfer. Commissioner Berkey spoke of the Madden Library and had 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. The Fresno Fire Department headquarters was recommended for the November meeting.

(5) Karen Bosch Cobb introduced Michael and Clarkia Cobb. She gave an overview of the Centennial Celebration at the Fresno County Library, passed out Library Centennial pins, pencils and bookmarks and also introduced the Centennial book, *A Century of Service: from Dewey Decimal to Digital*. All proceeds from the book go to Friends of the Library. Karen also showed an example of the original orange metal County Free Library signs. Karen shared a special gift from Bill Secrest Jr. and the staff of the California History and Genealogy Room for her retirement. It was a book titled *Wild Flowers of California*.

10) Announcements

- a) Chairman McFarland spoke of the Centennial celebration and book. Chairman McFarland spoke of County Librarian Karen Bosch Cobb for all that she has done for the Commission and asked that everyone join in a big round of applause. The Chairman presented Karen Bosch Cobb with a gift. It was a print of the Carnegie Library from the Pop Laval collection. The inscription read, *Chester Rowell, one of Fresno's most prominent citizens, directly approached Andrew Carnegie in early 1901 and was able to acquire \$30,000 to help fund a new library. Once the site at 1330 I Street (Broadway) was donated, an architectural contest was held with a New York firm landing the contract. Thus, construction on the Neoclassical building was commenced. With a completion date of April 2, 1904, Fresno's modern and greatly needed library began serving the community, much as our beloved County Librarian, Karen Bosch-Cobb has generously and effectively served the library system for more than three decades. This Pop Laval photograph, taken June 10, 1924, is dedicated with love and respect from the Fresno County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission to Karen upon her retirement.*
- b) Commissioner Taylor spoke of Del Rey
- c) Commissioner Enloe spoke of Masonic Temples in Selma and Clovis
- d) Commissioner Raven thanked Karen Bosch Cobb for Karen's service.
- e) Commissioner Berkey spoke of Jon Poulton Arcadia Publishing.
- f) Commissioner Bos thanked Karen Bosch Cobb for her service to Commission.
- g) Commissioner Shantz introduced his wife Colleen Shantz
- h) Commissioner Olson spoke of an Indian basket making event.
- i) Commissioner Catallo introduced his wife Francie Catallo.
- j) Commissioner Pappas noted Commissioner Laval was not present due to her daughter's illness.

	Meetings-2010	
May 20, 2010	4 p.m.	West Fresno Regional Center
September 16, 2010	3 p.m. Tour 4p.m. meeting.	Madden Library
November 18, 2010	4 p.m.	Fire House Museum

11) Adjournment