

## CITY OF ESCONDIDO

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ESCONDIDO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

October 4, 2011

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Chairman McQuead, in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

**Commissioners present:** Commissioner Rea, Commissioner Spann, Commissioner Breitenfeld, Commissioner Christensen, Chairman McQuead, and Vice-chairman Berk.

**Commissioners absent:** Commissioner Lee.

**Staff present:** Rozanne Cherry, Principal Planner; Paul Bingham, Assistant Planner; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

#### **MINUTES:**

Moved by Commissioner Berk, seconded by Commissioner Rea, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.**

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Discussion of HPC assuming some Design Review Board duties**

Mrs. Cherry noted that this was put on the agenda at the request of Chairman McQuead, noting there might be some Design Review Board (DRB) duties that could be transferred over to the HPC. Mrs. Cherry noted that there was no requirement for the Commission to look at DRB issues to retain their CLG status. She noted that the one area of the DRB that might be transferred to the Commission could be for a major project that would require new construction, additions or a plot plan review. She elaborated that the one issue with this was that the Commission met every two months which could slow down the review process.

Chairman McQuead asked the Commission if they wanted to be involved with the design review process.

Commissioner Christensen questioned whether the Planning Commission would have the knowledge base to deal with historic issues. Mrs. Cherry noted that one of the requirements would be that one member of the Planning Commission be knowledgeable in historic issues.

Commissioner Spann noted he would like the Commission to be involved but noted concern with the Commission's meeting schedule slowing down the review process. He suggested that the Commission be apprised of any potential historic issues so they could respond.

Mrs. Cherry noted that one option would be to establish a committee who could review any potential historic issues.

Chairman McQuead asked how often the DRB had to deal with historic resource issues. Mrs. Cherry noted that typically the issues had to do with code enforcement which did not occur monthly.

Commissioner Berk suggested that in order to speed them up, a subcommittee of three HPC members could be called to handle reviews when needed.

Commissioner Rea stated that the Planning Commission should always have a historian serving.

Mr. Bingham asked if the Commission had any issues with meeting more frequently if needed. The Commission replied in the negative.

Commissioner Rea suggested holding special meetings when needed. She noted that she did not want to slow down the process but felt the best method would be for the HPC to provide input. She also recognized that having one member on the Planning Commission knowledgeable about historic issues might be more efficient.

Chairman McQuead noted that as a Planning Commissioner he looked at what the DRB recommended. He then asked if more staff time would be involved if the Historic Preservation Commission was involved in the process of design review. Mrs. Cherry replied in the affirmative.

Discussion ensued regarding staff's time involved with preparing DRB meetings and providing information to the members.

Chairman McQuead asked if it would help if certain projects could be appealed to the HPC. Mrs. Cherry replied in the affirmative. Mr. Bingham noted that this currently is written into the code.

Commissioner Breitenfeld, Rea, and Christensen noted they were available to serve on the committee.

The consensus of the Commission was that it would like to be involved in the DRB review process for historic resources, that one Planning Commissioner be qualified in historic issues, and that a subcommittee be available to review historic issues and made available to staff.

## **2. Collecting money for membership in the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions**

Commissioner Rea asked how the Commission wanted to share the magazine. The recommendation was to forward the magazine to staff who would make it available at the each meeting.

## **3. Charter City and the Creation of Solar Guidelines for historic properties**

Mr. Bingham referenced an email from Mark Huck, noting that while AB2473 suggested no leeway whatsoever, there was leeway which came from associated code sections referenced in the Bill. He stated that Sacramento was in the process of creating solar farms and he suggested reading some of the articles.

Chairman McQuead suggested forwarding this onto the City Attorney.

## **4. Clarification on Building Permit Moratorium after illegal demolition**

Mr. Bingham referenced Article 40 of Historical Resources and noted that a penalty may be imposed where no construction may occur for three years.

## **5. California Main Street Alliance September 13 & 14 training opportunities**

Commissioner Spann noted that the Downtown Business Association was not able to attend the seminar.

Commissioner Berk asked if this meant that individuals would have to be more proactive to issues happening in the downtown area. Commissioner Spann replied in the affirmative.

Commissioners Berk, Spann & Rea felt that somehow there needed to be an increase in educating Escondido's downtown business.

Commissioner Rea noted that having a historic survey of downtown buildings might help further educate businesses downtown.

## **6. Planning/preparations to host a Regional Historic Workshop January 26, 2012**

Commissioner Rea questioned whether the Commission was in favor of holding one or two tracks and whether a \$10 fee should be charged for the workshop.

Mr. Bingham asked if a syllabus should be made available. Chairman McQuead concurred.

Commissioner Christensen suggested charging \$25. Commissioner Spann concurred.

Chairman McQuead suggested charging \$25 if tickets were purchased in advance and \$35 if purchased at the door.

### **Updates:**

Historic District – Breitenfeld, Rea

History Center – Lee

CLG Grant – Breitenfeld, Christensen, McQuead.

Commercial Historical Liaison – Spann

Design Review Board – Rea

Register/Survey – Berk, Christensen, and Breitenfeld. (Alternate: McQuead)

Daley Ranch – Lee, McQuead

Mills Act Monitoring Committee – Berk, Breitenfeld, Rea and Spann

Historic Public Relations – Berk, Rea, and Christensen.

Endangered Structures/Vintage Signs – Commissioner Rea and Commissioner Berk

The Commission and staff provided updates to each other.

With Commissioner Lee absent, Wendy Barker of the History Center reported that they were struggling with the City's Grape Day Park bathroom closure. Ms. Barker and City staff discussed the resultant difficulties this action was causing. She also said the Center was currently conducting a fund raiser to backfill money lost by Council funding cuts.

Commissioner Rea volunteered to create a Facebook page for the HPC on the City's website. She also said that she would like to see a stronger presence for the HPC on the City's new website.

Commissioner Berk suggested an agenda item to discuss how to protect historic signage, particularly those signs that may be nonconforming where the use has been abandoned for more than six months.

**Nomination for Historic Awards Program – None.**

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Berk noted that the 2012 Pioneer Room historic photo calendar was available. She stated that a presentation would be held in the Turrentine Room October 18, at 6:00 p.m. regarding old Highway 395. She also indicated that the Old Escondido Historic District had sponsored signage on the north and southbound sides of Escondido Boulevard.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.

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Rozanne Cherry, Principal Planner

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Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk