



DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MONROVIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016, 7:30 P.M.

CONVENE: Acting Chair Penny Zuk convened the Regular Meeting of the Monrovia Historic Preservation Commission of Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. In attendance were Craig Jimenez, Community Development Director, and Sheri Bermejo, Planning Division Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: In attendance were Commissioners Burke, Houston, Jimenez, Lee, Ryan and Zuk. Chair Hendrix was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Lee moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2015, Regular Meeting, and the November 9, 2015 Special Meeting as presented and the December 16, 2015 Special Meeting with one amendment, seconded by Commissioner Jimenez. The motion passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC INPUT: Allen Holmquist, 251 North Encinitas Avenue, gave an update on the Encinitas Historic District. He said that they are 90-95% finished with their portion of the paper work. They are now working on raising money to pay the application fee. So far they have raised \$11,153. Their goal is to turn in the application by June 1st.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

AR-1 Establishment of the Historic Santa Fe Depot Renovation Subcommittee

Craig Jimenez gave the report. The Commission discussed the item. Dan Ryan stated that he had been through this process before with his work on the Historic Depot in Orange. It was also recommended that James Hendrix serve on the committee because of his construction experience with historic buildings and Mark Houston because of his background as an architect.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to appoint Commissioner Houston, Commissioner Ryan and Chair Hendrix to serve on the Historic Depot Renovation subcommittee, seconded by Commissioner Jimenez and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Alternative Levels of Historic Designation

Craig Jimenez asked the Commission to start thinking about ways to recognize historic homes that may not meet the requirements for individual landmark status, still contribute to the neighborhood. Maybe they are not completely original but still have good bones. Commissioner Jimenez said maybe there could be a "Historic Light" designation. Commissioner Ryan asked if there could be a historic survey that identified changes that could be reversed. Commissioner Lee said there needs to be a different name than Historic Landmark that encourages people to maintain and restore their properties.

Mills Act Overview

Craig Jimenez reported that while the Mills Act contract is a very important tool in the preservation of historic homes, after 20 years the City needs to ask if the current program is sustainable. At this time there are 126 contracts and all landmarks and contributors to historic neighborhoods are eligible to apply for a contract. Could the program be used as an incentive for restoration of homes that may not qualify for landmark status.

Commissioner Ryan asked if there is a way the City can look at how much of the money saved in tax reductions has been spent on preservation. Commissioner Jimenez asked if the benefits of the program could be quantified. Commissioner Lee pointed out that there is a lot of confusion and misinformation about what a Mills Contract actually is and would like to see an education element in any future survey.

2016 Historic Preservation Work Program

Craig Jimenez gave a short overview of goals for 2016.

Craig asked the Commissioners to save the date for the upcoming 2016 MAP Conference on April 23rd. This is a wonderful event that brings everyone together to work on building a better community. He also reported that the Neighborhood Study is moving forward and the next round of meetings are beginning, with the first one being tomorrow night at the Library Community Room at 7:00 PM. The actual presentation will be available on the City's website.

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ryan gave a sub-committee report on 256 North Myrtle Avenue. He stated that the 2 flat doors can be re-used and that the new gate is very complimentary.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:16 p.m.