



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MONROVIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

CONVENE: Chair Hendrix convened the Special Meeting of the Monrovia Historic Preservation Commission of Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. In attendance were City Manager Oliver Chi, Planning Division Manager Craig Jimenez, and Planning Division Manager Sheri Bermejo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

AR-1 Discussion of Community Center Project

City Manager Oliver Chi and Craig Jimenez presented an overview of the proposed Community Center Project. They discussed the potential benefits and challenges of the project and asked for feedback on three items under the Commission's purview. The Commissioners offered the following comments:

Design of the building at 326 South Myrtle Avenue:

- Make an architectural statement "you have arrived"
- Main entrance needs to make a statement – the entrance to the library visually brings you into the building
- Tie into the style of the library – mimic the clamshell entry
- The design shown looks too institutional
- Keep the design simple, but maybe add some brick to soften it
- The building will stick out, especially next to the building to the north
- The Verizon building stands out too much – paint the bricks light blue so they sort of fade out, or possibly add a green roof, or have some tiers on the Community Center
- Stucco is notorious for getting dirty, plaster would be better
- There will need to be a signage program
- Houston's in Pasadena is a great example of mid-century architecture

Existing Community Center:

- What is left of the original building?
- Would the architect recognize the current building as his/hers?
- How important is the previous use to significance?
- Have the improvements/changes become historically significant?
- Most people would not know it was the News Post
- The original building is hidden in the surrounding structure
- There needs to be good documentation of the history of the building
- The option of doing nothing

Potential move of a Historic Landmark:

- Would it lose historical significance if it was moved?
- If new housing went in, this house would need to be moved
- The tree is also protected as a contributing factor

- Concerns of moving a landmark
- Consider transfer of development rights
- The Library should be the tallest building in that area
- There are lots of pedestrians on Palm, which is a narrow street
- There would be pedestrian, traffic and privacy issues with such a big development
- The scale of the area and the open space immediately turns your eye to the Library, nothing should be larger
- Concerns about context, bulk, massing and compatibility issues
- Loss of view from the park
- Put the open space in the front to push the project back

Public Comment

Eric Hamm, Phil Cannon, and Jim Wigton, President of MOHPG, all expressed concerns about the project.

There was a short recess.

The meeting resumed.

Ar-2 Discussion of Train Depot Project at South Myrtle Avenue

Craig Jimenez reported that the City Council authorized an agreement with Daylight Limited, LLC, for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the historic Santa Fe Depot. The plan is to repurpose it as a restaurant use. In January this item will be brought to the Commission and a Sub-Committee will be formed.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:09 p.m.