

2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor

Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

March 28, 2016

MONDAY

6:00 p.m.

**CONFERENCE ROOM A
2nd Floor, City Hall**

2600 FRESNO STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL- 6:00 p.m.

Chair Patrick Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Commissioners Present: Patrick Boyd, Jason Hatwig, Robin Goldbeck, C. Kristina Roper, Paul Halajian and Don Simmons.

Staff Present: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, Casey Lauderdale, Talia Kolluri-Barbick and Seth Mehrten.

Seth Mehrten is the new attorney assigned to Historic Preservation. He introduced himself to the Commission.

Karana Hattersley-Drayton remarked on the new microphone and recording system that has been installed. **Talia Kolluri-Barbick** cautioned that the microphones should not be turned off as this is a public meeting and everything is on the record.

II. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Approve Minutes for January 25th and February 22nd, 2016.

*The minutes for January 25th were approved as presented 6-0 on a motion by **Jason Hatwig** with a second by **Kristina Roper**.*

*The minutes of February 22nd were approved on a vote of 6-0 on a motion by **Robin Goldbeck** and a second by **Kristina Roper**.*

Karana noted that in the prior discussion regarding the Merci Boxcar there was a misunderstanding regarding the benefit of listing the structure on the Local Register. Because it is not a building, the California Historical Building Code does not apply but there are benefits under the zoning ordinance. Additionally, historic resources become “our” responsibility and there is more leverage in supporting projects and in protecting the resource. Karana also noted that the January meeting included some useful information about vacant buildings and recommended that the Commissioners take note of this.

III. APPROVE AGENDA

*The agenda was approved on a vote of 6-0 with a motion by **Don Simmons Ph.D.** and a second by **Jason Hatwig**.*

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IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

V. CONTINUED MATTERS
None

VI. COMMISSION ITEMS

- A. Workshop: "Archaeology for Fun and Profit (and Preservation)." C. Kristina Roper, M.A.

Staff Recommendation: No action is required for this training.

***Karana** introduced **Kristina Roper** and noted that with High Speed Rail, we are beginning to have more archaeological projects in the city. She reviewed the sections of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the General Plan which address archaeology and/or cultural resources. She noted that Commissioners are required to have training each year as part of the City's CLG status and that Kristina's presentation will apply to that requirement.*

***Kristina Roper** stated that her presentation would focus on what archaeologists actually do. Through a Power Point presentation she offered definitions, noting that archaeology is a subfield of anthropology and is the study of humans through the physical remains of the past. Archaeologists are not like they are often portrayed in the movies (e.g. Indiana Jones) but spend a lot of their time in the lab quantifying data. She noted the differences between historic and prehistoric archaeology and discussed the various subfields of historic archaeology. Cultural Resource Management (CRM) is focused on the protection of resources.*

***Karana Hattersley-Drayton:** How is archaeology a tool for us, how might it come up?*

***Roper:** She reminded fellow Commissioners of the consultant who did the historic survey of the South Van Ness area. How could a survey like this locate and consider the information that might be found in the buried privies. She notes that even in urban areas there can be sub-surface deposits, including graves [as were found in Manhattan].*

***Drayton:** One of the problems with the HSR archaeological work is that they lack context for what they are finding.*

***Roper:** An excellent example of a good interpretive report is one prepared by Sonoma State's Anthropological Studies Center on research in West Oakland following the 1989 collapse of the Cypress Freeway. The report is called "Digging West Oakland. [Ed. Note: Another study from this project was called "Sights and Sounds..." to which Karana contributed an essay.]*

***Sandra Brock [Planner III]:** Notes that she attended a training recently on AB 52 and wonders what role the HPC would play, if any, under this new state law regarding consultation with tribes.*

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Simmons: Asked how is archaeology being handled in the Fulton Street project. How current is the study and can we be assured that nothing will be destroyed.

Drayton: An archaeological report was prepared as part of the environmental review. An archaeologist is monitoring the work. Furthermore, the street was dug to a considerable depth when the Mall was first constructed; building basements often extend out under the street.

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Roper: The genesis of AB 52 was from issues in Madera County. This law is still a work-in-progress.

Hatwig: Notes he has seen cultural mitigation measures in an EIR be a double-edged sword, used for good but also to manipulate an end.

Roper: Stresses the importance of consultation BEFORE a project begins.

Hatwig: On some of his projects engineers have been trained by archaeologists to know what to look for and what to do if something is discovered. [Ed. Note: This is a standard CEQA mitigation measure. Drayton notes that City staff spent time talking about archaeological protocols with the contractors for the Zoo expansion project.]

Roper: Mentions her experience with contractor training.

B. Discussion of "Draft Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Policy Statement on Historic Preservation and Community Revitalization."

Staff Recommendation: Discuss and provide comments as appropriate.

Karana states that there has been very little subsurface work in Fresno. Because of HSR there is significant new work. But a remark was made about the lack of consistency between jurisdictions. This issue is raised in the document, "Draft Advisory Council on Historic Preservation...." that she thought we should review.

She gives a brief overview of the draft document and quotes some alarming facts including the number of abandoned properties in 2008, many of which are historic. We here in Fresno understand this problem. The document uses some new terms. She discusses the principles that they include and how they do or don't relate to tax breaks and the potential for new surveys. The Advisory Council is seeking input on this document and wonders if the Commission has any thoughts. She was personally underwhelmed... seemed like no new tools were suggested.

Simmons: Notes the inconsistencies between cabinet departments. Those that fund community revitalization make no mention of historic preservation. Only when the State makes those connections and pushes for it, will it happen.

Drayton: As a reminder the SHPO is basically concerned with federal protocols and thus with eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. But as someone who has done Section 106 compliance I am surprised at the inconsistencies among the various federal agencies.

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Sandra Brock: Observes that it is annoying dealing with NEPA due to lack of consistency whereas with CEQA you have the same checklist each time. She notes that the Community Reinvestment Act, which requires banks to reinvest in the communities they serve, has made banks run away from low-income communities because they don't want to have to loan to neighborhoods with low credit scores. She recommends that the Commission look to fill the one vacancy with someone with an interest in history but with a background in finance and real estate.

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VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Boyd reminds folks to turn in their form 700. He also notes that he and **Karana Hattersley-Drayton** are working to get clarity on a new Conflict of Interest clause which apparently prohibits those who serve on City commissions from working on other City projects. This clause was recently added to the City's standard contract.

VIII. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Members of the Commission

B. Staff

1. Update on Council Action on the Parkside Dairy/Golden State Company (Central Valley Cheese Buildings) located at 450 E. Belmont Avenue for the Local Register of Historic Resources.

Karana Hattersley-Drayton reported that the Council voted 4-3 to not place the buildings located at the former Parkside Dairy on Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources. Because the former EIR for the Tower District Specific Plan included a specific mitigation measure which required their preservation, the property owner will need to do a new Environmental Assessment to see how to move forward. This will likely take about six months.

2. Fresno Historic Preservation Week Activities, May 1-May 7, 2016.

Karana reported that we are currently working on the flyer. Several events are planned and the Mayor's proclamation will occur at a Council meeting in late April.

Jason Hatwig: There won't be any beer versus wine battles this year.

Simmons: It will be jazz versus blues.

Halajian: Going back to Producers: does this mean that the owner can demolish the buildings?

Hattersley-Drayton: Not readily, due to the EIR mitigation measure.

Talia Kolluri-Barbick: The process will be to remove the standing mitigation measure.

Halajian: Does the mitigation measure require action on someone's part?

TK: Right now the measure is to preserve the building or façade. These mitigation measures have not yet been changed. The Council action did not change them but the Council said the

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buildings are not historic. The mitigation measures were not discussed.

Patrick Boyd: *Is that what the consultant is hired for, to determine the feasibility of demolition?*

TK: *The mitigation measure currently prohibits demolition.*

Halajian: *If someone wanted to replace their 50 year+ windows, they would have to come to this body, right?*

Drayton: *No, the Commission only has jurisdiction over designated historic properties.*

Halajian: *So in other words the property has to be designated to come to this body, rather than just being 50 years of age.*

Drayton: *The exception is properties that appear to be eligible for listing are brought before the Historic Preservation Commission for consideration whether as a new request for designation or on rare occasions as part of a demolition review (as authorized by the General Plan). But the HPC has no authority until and unless a property is actually designated.*

Hatwig: *Is the applicant for Producers Dairy paying for the study?*

Drayton: *Yes, the owner had input on the selection of the consultant.*

C. General Public

There are no comments or queries from the public.

IX. NEXT MEETING: April 25th, 2016 6 PM Conference Room A, City Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Boyd at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

***Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Secretary***

***Casey Lauderdale, Planner II
Recording Secretary***