



2600 Fresno Street, Third Floor

Historic Preservation Commission Executive Minutes

October 26, 2020

MONDAY

6:00 p.m.

2600 FRESNO STREET
CONFERENCE ROOM A

2nd Floor, City Hall

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick Boyd at 6:01 PM.

Commissioners Present: Patrick Boyd, Jason Hatwig, Paul Halajian, Don Simmons, Kristina Roper, and Christopher Rocha.

Staff Present: Mike Sanchez, Summer Cecil, Rina Gonzales (CAO), and Gavin Haubelt (ISD).

II. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Approve Minutes for September 28, 2020.

The minutes for September 28, 2020 were approved 4-0 with a motion by Commissioner Halajian and a second by Vice Chair Hatwig. Commissioner Roper and Rocha abstaining, due to not being present at the last meeting.

III. APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved 5-0 with a motion by Commissioner Roper and a second by Commissioner Simmons.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

V. CONTINUED MATTERS

None.

VI. COMMISSION ITEMS

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, DIRECTING A REVIEW OF THE NAMES OF ALL CITY FACILITIES AND PROHIBITING NAMING OF CITY ASSETS AFTER CULTURAL OR HISTORIC FIGURES KNOWN TO BE RACIST OR BIGOTED. ID 20-001471

Chair Patrick Boyd: Commission item number six (6). Mike, do you want to give us kind of a little background and history of what we're doing here?

Assistant Director of Planning and Development Mike Sanchez:

Good evening commissioners. Chair Boyd, commission members, tonight we have an informational item for your review and discussion. As many of you look back on October 15, 2020, the Fresno City Council passed a resolution that directed the Historic Preservation Commission to review the names of all city facilities and provide recommendations regarding any facility named after a controversial historical or cultural figure. The HPC has also been tasked with forming the criteria necessary to make the determination regarding the namesake facility and to ensure the names are culturally sensitive and appropriate. For the adopted resolution, the HPC is expected to come up with a full list of names of city assets to review and research within 10 days of the effective date, via resolution. The HPC is also expected to report back to the council within 60 days with its recommendations. I would like to note the 60 days is simply to come back with a plan of how the commission can proceed forward. It is not coming back with any specific recommendation or any specific facilities at this time. Tonight's meeting is essentially discuss how the commission wishes and how to develop a plan of action. So with that, Commissioner Chair Boyd, I want to turn it back over to the HPC for further discussion and we're available for any questions.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Okay. There were some attachments; Exhibit A. I'll call it a short list of items that are in question.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: It is a short list. We're still working on the city facility list. The list you got is just the city parks. So that's a partial list, we are still working on getting the city facilities, and we hope to have that out to you within the next couple of days.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Okay. And not everything on this list is, is a historically.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: That is correct. I just provided the commission with all the city facilities. Some may simply be not applicable, others may need some research to be involved. And that's essentially what the roster of tonight's meeting is to come up with a strategy and how to go about doing this.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: Mike, is the goal also to just really kind of go through pretty much 100% of all the historic inventory we have and just double check? Just to make sure, we can really focus on the ones out there that we know might be added to final list, but actually scrubbing through the entire inventory.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Well, that's part of the discussion this evening Jason, is to determine how we're going to go about doing that. What these are all city facilities, are not private individual homes, these are all city facilities. So that's what we're going to be focusing on. What city facilities need to have further research and determinations made on.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: To clarify the list, in Attachment A, is city facilities, not necessarily historic properties, is that correct?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: That is correct, because there are city facilities that are named after several figures. And we need to go through that to make sure we got all the "I's" and check the "T's". And essentially, that's where the charge of this commission is determined what that criteria might be.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: So the other list or the additional information you're going to send us, it will encompass all city properties, as well as historic properties. Is that correct?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: It will only be city properties, it will not be existing historic buildings that are on the register. It will only be those that have city tie-ins to it. So yes.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Okay. I was thinking that we would be just addressing our listed historic properties, not necessarily a list of city resources. Kind of doing a background check to see what their historical records were and why they were named.

Commissioner Don Simmons: That would be much easier. What Mike said is how I understood, from my conversations with council members, that it was all city owned properties, and not the privately owned properties.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Okay, and not just listed properties either.

Commissioner Don Simmons: Not just listed properties either.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: But it's safe to say that some of these properties might be historic properties.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: That's potentially, yes. And if they are historic properties, that's something that we'll need to further evaluate as well.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Could it? Could we have a list of the city owned properties that are also historic properties?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Yes, but that's the missing information we still need to provide to the commission.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Okay.

Commissioner Don Simmons: It would seem that that list would be where it might be the better, better starting point. Since there's more documented research on those properties that we can get to first and faster; hopefully.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: That's true, Don. I think what I want the discussion to hopefully center on is, yes, we'll get you the necessary information. But, like you said, those that already have a historic background, we can easily, pick up the research and do a very quick check on that and that's understood. I just need to get you that information and I will get that soon as I possibly can. In the meantime, I just want to make sure the Commission discusses how they want to go about setting up the criteria, reviewing the properties or the list. And that could either be a subcommittee if necessary. Keep in mind, this commission here meets once a month, there's nothing to prevent this commission from forming a subcommittee, if you will, and meeting every two weeks or something like that, if that was the case. So keep in mind, we need to try and get back to the council within 60 days with some type of plan of action. So it may behoove the commission to consider setting up its' subcommittee of three or four. I'll come up with some suggestions on how to move forward. So that's essentially the way I like to have the equation discuss this evening.

Vice Chair Jason Hartwig: Is there an open idea for hiring out some of the historic kind of research and sub-consulting? Someone who has some of that additional background on a historical artifact or something new, the commission isn't necessarily geared towards.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: On that case, essentially, staff will be available to assist with research efforts. Very glad to report that we have on board now a Preservation Specialist. I will introduce her to you later in the evening. Between the two of us and perhaps some other planning staff, we will be able to divvy up the work. We know how lengthy it is, but we want to be at least get you the research material that you need to make that decision so I will let you all establish.

Commissioner Don Simmons: Okay, Mike, can you give us some

estimate of how many items or locations are on this list? What are we looking at? Any estimate?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: On not counting the parks that you have with you; ongoing, we're probably looking at. I'm really just guessing here Don, is probably the least a couple dozen city facilities. I'm guessing on that. And a lot of them don't really have names associated with them, which will make that a lot quicker. But once we have that, we'll have a better understanding of it.

Commissioner Don Simmons: Right, because I may be, like others, that not quite sure what facility is city owned, and which one is just maybe city maintained? Or what the relationships to certain properties are? And so the list will help us decide. I think that is the process. Yeah, there's 100 items on the list, and then we're looking at something else. But yet 50 or less, then the timeframe makes a little more sense.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Correct. And really, the time frame itself, like I said, it's just come up with a plan into how we're going to analyze, it is not expected that we analyze every name on the list within the next 50 days. That's not the intent. The intent is to come up with an action plan to how to go about doing that, and perhaps establishing a timeframe after that. But while you're correct on me, I want to say it's probably under 50. But I don't know, at this point, and I'm in the midst right now we're getting with our Risk Management, our Public Works Department and establishing that list. I know we have one so far, and it's just a question to put it all together. So I hope to have that to the commission in the next couple days.

Commissioner Don Simmons: Do we have any models from other cities? Who have done something like this?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Is there any questions? And I think what I heard, I just caught the tail end of the council here. I heard Asheville, North Carolina was one. They also mentioned Los Angeles had another one. So that's another aspect we'll be researching, to see if they have an established set of criteria that we can send to you as well.

Commissioner Don Simmons: To be honest, that information came from me. And it was, I think Asheville, North Carolina may have done something like this, because they've made some changes. But that's not in any way, was not a certainty. It's just that I know those there were discussions about that in the cities. Los Angeles has a Landmarks Commission. And their Landmarks Commission has some of this in their task, but I'm not sure that the parallels are exact on those.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Yeah, it just depends on each city as your session does have a different name. Some call it Historic Preservation, others called it Landmark Commission. We'll have to do that research and have some examples for the equipment and certainly have some staff look into it.

Commissioner Don Simmons: I think this may be my last question, but I won't promise. Is there any help, any support resource from the State Historic Preservation officer or from any other groups or individuals outside of us.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: So that is something we'll have to look into. To be honest with you, I know you all have a city staff and available at the commission's disposal to help with research. But we'll have to look into that and see what kind of resources we can use for all other agencies.

Commissioner Don Simmons: Okay, thanks.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Seems to me at the very least, Don, just to kind of piggyback onto that. One is that we should at least let our partners at the state level know what we're doing. And see if there's other jurisdictions within the state kind of doing the same thing. Maybe once we flush out some ideas, we send it up their way almost as like a peer review type of a scenario. They are aware of what we're doing. And I assume maybe in this state that most Historic Preservation Commission's review their properties with under the same criteria that we do. Maybe when you go to state to state, it's a little bit different. And so that might be where it gets a little apples and oranges when we start comparing things. But if there's other people going through the same process, we can, maybe we could have the state the resource to us,

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: I'll certainly make that call Chair Boyd, that's an excellent question. Certainly make that onto our current state.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Now, I've kind of got what we're supposed to, I mean a better idea of what we're meaning the list that we're looking at the tasks and we're looking at, kind of feel like we could kind of a little get into the meat of it a little bit more. How we're currently reviewing properties, what that criteria is, and kind of where we think those red flags are coming in. Obviously, it's on the people side of it. So if your building is listed, it's because of that particular architecture. We don't have to really necessarily concern that. But it's either going to be the architect is going to be in question, if they're on the listing, the property owner or developer on the property, is it going to be an issue, can be an issue, or sometimes we have notable contractors were built in

these properties, becoming an issue? Can anyone think of anything else that might be?

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: I know, recently, Washington, DC is undergoing the same kind of thing with monuments? That's one thing, we can sort of keep in the back of our mind as we're trying to formulate a plan, as well as several universities. I know that's been going on the past year. So there might be some resources out there on you know, devising a path on getting this site in to some sort of resolution.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Can the city council possibly give us a bit more direction? I mean, it's one thing to look at precedents that may be relevant to other places, but could the council give us some guidance as to what would be relevant to our community in terms of, you know, identifying these properties in question.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: So the resolution is part of your packet

Commissioner Paul Halajian: I see the resolution and it's quite vague. Was it less vague on purpose?

Assisting Director Mike Sanchez: Well, it is a sensitive matter, obviously. Certainly, I think one of the options the Commission has, you know, is setting up a sub-committee to come up with some ideas. Whatever this commission comes up with will have to come back to Council for approval. So at that point, it may be such that they'll accept the recommendation as you presented or they may fine tune a little bit or they may provide a different direction. My understanding in listening to the items and talking to Chiefs of Staff was the idea was to come up with a plan based on your knowledge and experience of historic preservation. History and those of those types of things, and see what and using all the resources you can in terms of what are other cities doing, and what that particular criteria is, and plant it here in the city. I know we don't have a complete list right now. At the same token, we just didn't know how much or how many facilities correction to be dealing with. Maybe a handful, we just don't know, at this point. That's why it's critical to get you a complete list and to start doing some research on what other cities have been doing in similar fashion.

Chair Patrick Boyd: So Mike, this was triggered, because we've got a park named after a KKK member locally from the 20s. And so part of our findings are going to be red flagging properties with similar connections to like that. Is part of our finding going to be coming up with a convention to Riname that facility?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: That is part of the discussion. Yes, Chair Boyd, I mean, meeting the criteria. So I agree, there are

some ideas that need to be flushed out, but we can certainly get the process started by doing the research on facilities that we have. At any time, we don't have to wait a month from now to have this commission call a special meeting to discuss some things if they feel the need to do that. So that's another option the Commission has. This is a special assignment that was granted by the Council. So the commission can call for a special meeting in a couple weeks or whatever, to discuss this better further, and we have a little more information.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Okay.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: At that point, we could probably, I know, I did talk to a Chief of Staffs, on this matter before to see me, and it is necessary that we have a subsequent discussion. We could certainly do that as well. But from my discussions with Chief of Staffs was that, we wanted the commission to come up with a plan of how to deal with this assignment. This assignment based on your years of experience in architecture, art history, and those types of things. So, that doesn't mean we can't do some initial research to help you along the way, I want to do that. But that's the task we have for us.

Chair Patrick Boyd: I see, finding the properties, red flagging the properties is one task. And I see, you know, coming up with solutions, to naming the properties, something completely different. And that's a big item, you know, especially if we've got a space that has been disrespectfully named, and we want to respectfully name it in, you know, in a good in a responsible manner.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: I think on some of the buildings, it's a little more simple, some of our historic buildings that might be listed there. If there was ever something that had to be Renamed, for the most part, the building still qualifies because of its period and characteristic and method of construction and architecture and all the artistic values are already would qualify it as significance, you know, historic, and not necessarily maybe the association with the name anymore. So that that's something you know, I know on a building might be easier than what you say, Patrick on a park where, where the park is a different, different thing altogether.

Commissioner Don Simmons: In my experience in Charleston, the city has not had a very difficult time of removing the monument and Renaming the park of Calhoun square. The pushback has come because Calhoun Street is a major thoroughfare and the expense to the people who live and do business on that street, you know, to change everything that's really more controversial. Little things, as Jason said, the building may be, you know, relatively easier than parks or streets for us.

Chair Patrick Boyd: I didn't think about the street aspect of it.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: Again, it's the name that brought it into historic significance on things like those parks and streets. Because there's no necessary monument or thing in place. That qualified as listing.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Whatever happens if we miss something?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Chair Boyd did bring something up earlier, in this discussion that is identifying those facilities that might warrant reconsideration is one thing; is one task. And Riname is a completely other task. So, what the commission could consider maybe taking a phased approach to this whole thing. Whereby, they identify which facilities might be the criteria, and then leave the Renaming at a later phase or something like that. But I also want to note, there is a lot of time involved in this and research. I mean, if some of these things, if the commission feels that outside consultants are needed for something like this. We can certainly ask for additional money, can't guarantee anything, but there's nothing wrong with asking.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: Hey, one other question for you, Mike. I know, we've got mostly just parks and a few buildings listed. Are there any statues or things like that, which would be something requested to take down? You know, I'm trying to go through them all and my mind and, and, and know if there's any specific, physical objects that would need to be removed? Maybe put in some sort of museum that is not in our public daily interface, but it's something that is more of a, "Hey, we went through this period and here's the story of this person, we took this statue down for this reason or that reason". Anything that comes to mind on a sort of monuments?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Not off the top of my head, Jason. I can't think of any one that would fall in that category. The other thing is that a city facility and it may or may not, belong to a museum or some, I do not know. The question is, would that statue belong to the city. There are a few of those around town, I believe, I'm not sure.

Commissioner Don Simmons: I have another question. See, I told you, I might have another question. This may be also an opportunity to look at what we might be missing in names and in naming opportunities. As we do the review, we might find that all of these are of one particular ethnic or racial group and we don't have any buildings or parks, or other city facilities named after. For example, I don't know

after Hmong, any Hmong leaders in our community. Or after any LGBTQ leaders in our community or after women because I can't think of a city building named after a woman. So it might be an opportunity as well, to look at what we've omitted, historically, and how to maybe change something that had a rather mundane name. And to add a particular community group members name that hasn't been recognized.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Now, there are a few parks facilities named after women and there are some schools named after some Hmong leaders as well. We'll go through that list, but you're right, that could be one of the recommendations the Commission can make. Here are facilities that warrant reconsideration and there's an opportunity to Rename them. And here's the list of potential names. So you're right on that can move forward.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: Right. Don, that can still potentially qualify, if it is a historic park. It could still have significance, right? I think that's a good thought.

Chair Patrick Boyd: As the country kind of grapples with this issue, there's a lot of wonderful solutions that are coming up around town. Our suggestion for naming conventions and ideas and directions to go and could be extremely lengthy. Right? It could just be there might be there might be desire for a public opportunity. The public comment period or, opportunity to put in names or, broken up by district, by kind of more modern villages of Fresno or any number of conventions.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: It's really hard to name after people too because, people fail in society and often take a turn; no longer their name is relevant. How would we even think about the future if we're naming these after individuals? What if they would fail? What if they become horrific and now we get another issue on our hands. That's one thing about names that popped into my mind. There's a lot riding on that in the future on the Renaming thing as well.

Commissioner Christopher Rocha: I'm not sure if anyone on the commission is attending The Path Forward then starts tomorrow? They're opening topic is actually about, it's this exact topic. So I'm not registered to attend it, but I was just looking at their website. And that's the first thing we're speaking about is what we're dealing with in our city.

Assisting Director Mike Sanchez: Thanks, Chris.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Any other questions for staff, commissioners?

Commissioner Kristina Roper: I have a question. When these parks

were started; were formed, I assume there is documentation that states, why they're named for that. I mean, that would seem like a place to start with, you know, gathering information. A lot of these parks I'm not familiar with.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: I would agree with you on the parks. Yes, I think the parks ones will probably be the easiest, because those have a very quick research for be named that way. So that's probably going to be a quick analysis. So we'll certainly get with our park staff on that to see what they might be able to provide us. As you are right, there is probably going to be a paragraph after a teacher who might work there for 50 years or something like that. I know there's a there's a couple parks like that so you can see some of the names. We will get with Parks as well, and see what they can provide us in terms of how they named those different kinds of things. I think that one should be off pretty quick.

Chair Patrick Boyd: He knows we come up with different ideas on for naming conventions. Probably also lends, as Don pointed out, we have a wonderful opportunities for new names to represent newer cultures and even older, better represent cultures that have been underrepresented here for some time. So when we look at the one on the top of the list here, Basin AH1 Dog Park, we could probably say that one's pretty safe. But there might be an opportunity to Riname that so there's better representation within our community. So that might be a day, a different flat air for an opportunity, instead of just being seen is only taking taken advantage of correcting for the indiscretions.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: When I'd asked for some additional kind of clarity on this issue, it occurs to me that, all human beings are flawed in one degree or another. And what happens is when we have somebody who did amazingly good things, but also did something that was notorious or controversial. So, most of us do good things, and we do some bad things as well. So how do we navigate those murky waters? Is it really going to get into sort of judgment calls of the good outweighs the bad? Is that kind of what I'm sensing here?

Commissioner Kristina Roper: Right, we can't sacrifice really good at the altar of perfection. So do the best we can.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Yeah, we get into the situation where somebody did something really great for society, but they had this really bad character flaw. It's up to us to decide if the really great they did for society offsets the character flaw. Is that is that right?

Chair Patrick Boyd: I think that's the big question mark on all the big question. Yeah.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: So I guess, my point is, we're all put on this commission, because we know about Historic Preservation with regard to buildings and architecture, but I'm not a sociologist. I don't know that I or any of us, actually, one of us, Kristina, I think is probably the most qualified and Don as well. But I don't know that I'm educated enough. And can get educated enough in a short amount of time to make those kinds of really, really murky decisions. So I will ask you all to kind of help me understand this.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Yeah, and that's kind of why I was alluding to. The two projects of one identifying potential problems and then the other part of Renaming. I bet that list, or that flow chart, we essentially create to go down that path is going to be so deep, and I don't know that to the best of my ability, I would try to not make any potholes in that flowchart that we would obviously step in. That's a tall order for an area that I'm not well versed in at all. That might be something where Mike, we can identify the list and the potential, and that might be where a sub consultant comes in, and kind of takes over from that point.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: I suspect some of these will be quite cut and dry, they'll be sort of obvious, and others will be in a very, very gray realm. And I think in the gray realm, I think it's probably best if we bring in others who can, who are more educated and more skilled in making those kinds of really delicate determinations.

Commissioner Kristina Roper: In my line of work, I do as a developer associations all the time, but I don't make moral judgments on them. They are what they are.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Yeah, I think we're going to get into the realm of moral judgments here. It seems like.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: What happens is you put something in a name and you're honoring that person. So there's your character, like judgment because we're paying homage or honoring a figure, you know?

Commissioner Kristina Roper: Well, in my opinion, the best place to start is, let's start by compiling a list of problematic names and go from there and see what but how deeply are and this.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: To determine whether it's a problematic name or not, we're going to have to do a certain amount of research. And I guess the question is how deep do you go in doing the research? You go until you find something that gives you pause? Or, I don't know to do this. How far do you go with the research?

Commissioner Kristina Roper: Not very far.

Commissioner Don Simmons: I agree. Not very far with the research. And then there's the cause flaws tend to be pretty well documented, as well as great things. It's just that and historically, some places chose to ignore the flaws completely. And the example was, I was a Strong Thurmond scholar, and studied in the Strong Thurmond building. Now, the Strong Thurmond building, it has another name. And they sent us a letter saying feel free to drop that from the name of the scholarship program you were in. It's not that people didn't know what he was doing. It's just at that point in time, that was perfectly acceptable, at that point in time. And by any stretch of imagination, now, what he did would not be acceptable.

Commissioner Kristina Roper: And On a similar note, I was at UC Berkeley. Anthropology is in Kroeber Hall. Kroeber is associated with Ishee, and that has become problematic at all, and they're considering dropping that name. It's complex.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: I'm thinking about the figure who may or may not have been as forthright with all of their involvement and memberships, etc. And sometimes it seems like it may not be obvious, is that is that the case? I don't know.

Chair Patrick Boyd: I suppose part, kind of going back to the question of what if you miss some. We might miss a couple. But if we put together maybe a process when information is found. Kind of a process of what to do with it. Members of the public, when they come across elements and bring it to either HPC or city's attention, there's kind of a, we've got a process of kind of how to deal with that. And that might be a combination of various different departments, between removing and replacing naming convention.

Commissioner Don Simmons: I'm aware as well, that the makeup of our commission will be called into question. And people will take note of our racial and ethnic backgrounds as well, and making those judgment calls on what is problematic and what is not. And we, I believe, have to be ready to address that along with the city. Because we know in social media, it's already been called into question. So who do they think they are? And that was even before we knew we had the assignment. So we have to know how to respond to that in order to do this efficiently and effectively.

Chair Patrick Boyd: And Don, we have talked about in the past that, we are not well represented on the commission, per district, per ethnicity. We've also talked about how are listed properties are not necessarily well represented either and we could use a much better

representation of working class housing. It was one of the great things about getting Armenian town cultural district on the list. Which you know Mike, as we're going through this stuff that is still kind of out there in the world of planning and not voted on by city council. And it's been out there for years now. And it needs to be if we bring it up every few meetings to see where it's at. And if all this stuff is, you know, things like this are going to come up, an in-action is going to be perceived as much as an action. Probably look at that one again, and get final solution on Armenian Town. We've been waiting for that one for a long time. And that's just been in the city's hands for a couple years, but there's people in the community have been waiting for that for decades. So that has to happen.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: So if we formed the task force, can we can add people to the task force that may not necessarily be on the commission to assist us in doing a good job of this?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: I don't know why we couldn't.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: I'm sorry, say that, again,

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: I wanted to get Rina's input on that, because I don't know why we couldn't add some outside specialists ability as you were talking about earlier. You know, you certainly can set up a subcommittee of HPC members. But asking Rina the question, could that subcommittee include, maybe professor sociology or history or something like that. And so maybe that's one way of trying to come up with some criteria or so. So I'll defer to Rina on that.

Chair Patrick Boyd: And we have people in our community that do such an amazing job digging up this information. All their little resources in their own little stockpiles of history. It would be criminal not to tap them as an amazing resource.

Deputy City Attorney Rina Gonzalez: Evening commission members, Rina Gonzalez for the City Attorney's Office, I do know that the bylaws allow the subcommittee to be created from members of the Commission. It does not speak to bringing on non-commission members. So I think staying within the commission initially would be the preferred method. And then if you need to bring in additional people, we can evaluate it as you proceed.

Chair Patrick Boyd: That's a great idea. We could probably get a certain amount taken care of, and if we feel we need to get some more expertise to really evaluate our list. Maybe we can ask that question again.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: So let me ask this, can we have some? I have people on my staff who are just fantastic at doing this kind of research. Can I rely on them to work with me to do such research?

Deputy City Attorney Rina Gonzalez: I would think that the preferred method is to rely on city staff to help compile the research. That way, the city staff can be in charge of it and distribute it to everybody. I appreciate the enthusiasm. I think if you want to speak to the director or to Mike further about any efforts that you think might be needed, again, I think we need to see how things kind of proceed with the city. Looking up reports such as Commissioner Roper's suggestion. If we pull reports from the clerk regarding the naming of different facilities, parks, we likely have a lot of information within the city which we can by which we can help you do your job. Okay.

Chair Patrick Boyd: All right. Thank you Rina. Any other questions for staff? We've got seven people, six people, plus the administrator or participant's list. I am thinking we should open it up to the attendees to see if they want to make a comment on this topic. If you are an attendee, you want to make a comment if you could wave and we'll bring you on one by one. Our typical comment time is left to three minutes. So if you want to kind of keep your eye on the clock and keep your comments to three minutes, we'll get it recorded. And we'll take it into account as we work through this process. I see any people waving? I don't see any people waving here. There's one up. Can we have your address for the record, please?

Citizen James Sponslor 330 North Park Avenue: Yes, James Sponslor, 330 North Park Avenue. I'm a proud owner of the Cowdrey home that's on the local registry. Just a couple of thoughts. I have looked over the list of the parks, I did notice that there was an omission of a park that is known as the Zee Eslemel Park, which is the small triangular park in Divisadero and Broadway. In addition, there's a few things that I think may be helpful to think about. I know that previously, we're talking about looking at possibly outside assistance and things like that. It might be best, in order to get a more representative slice of each district is possibly include the plan committees that the districts have. They would be the ones that would may also have information that's more specific to their districts as to resources that need to be looked at. And I do agree that this is a little cumbersome, because given the fact that the Commission is this historical preservation commission and not the history commission. So it would be probably something that would be best to be taken over in taken through in time, rather than try to rush through the 60 days. So maybe asking Council for some additional time, given the amount of resources and the amount of research that has to be done in order to accomplish the task that's been requested. Some other things to think of now I know that

the streets were have been expressed by the by Counsel, that they were not to be considered. However, there are some that may come up as well. Some examples would be Blackstone. Blackstone is named after Sir William Blackstone, who founded the modern justice system, which many would say does not treat everyone fairly. Also, you have Irwin Avenue, which is out on the southwest side. It's actually named after former city trustee and known KKK affiliate; just like the ballpark that was brought up in the question. And then there's also things like Shaw Avenue, which was actually named after Police Chief Shaw. And he was known for discrimination and it's documented in the newspapers at the time. So it's just something to keep in mind as we go through this task. A couple of ideas and thoughts I had. So thank you.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Thank you James, appreciate that. I think, the one thing we might want to clarify, Mike to James and other people listening maybe to ourselves, as you mentioned that we don't have to necessarily come up with the actual solutions for each property in 60 days. Maybe a plan on how to handle it, Correct. Not saying that won't be difficult, but getting an outline in 60 days to basically have people go through and vet it for, for its for its value, might be a good strategy.

Commissioner Kristina Roper: Simply come up with a procedure.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Yeah. Anyone else out there in participant land? Want to make a comment? I'm seeing none. So I will close public comment and bring it back to the commission. Members, any other thoughts? Questions come up while James was speaking?

Commissioner Don Simmons: To clarify, are we including streets or not?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: It's my understanding that we're not including streets. I will certainly verify that.

Commissioner Don Simmons: Okay, thank you.

Chair Patrick Boyd: I suppose though, Don, if we come up with the process and say, we believe streets ought to be included, that would just be our recommendation. Right, Mike?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: That would be correct.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Anything else? Anyone? I think a subcommittee on this is a good idea. You could get probably three or four people to start knocking something out. Is there anyone who's interested in right now? And we could build that? Kristina want to be on that one?

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Commissioner Kristina Roper: Yeah, sure.

Chair Patrick Boyd: I'd like to be on it as well. I'm very interested in this topic.

Historic Preservation Specialist Alicia: I would as well.

Chair Patrick Boyd: And who is this?

Project Manager Summer Cecil: She's the new Historic Preservation Specialist.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Thank you. Welcome. My apologies. I was like, that is a face I'm not recognizing right now. All right. Anyone else?

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: Patrick, I'm always up for being on this particular topics group.

Chair Patrick Boyd: So we've got four. I think that's probably enough to get this kicked off. Unless anyone else would like to join on? Hearing none, that will be our subcommittee. We've got Alicia, Kristina, Jason and I are on the subcommittee, Mike. So we'll get rolling on that and see if we can report on findings and process next month to the commission. So does that sound good, everybody? And we can get connected offline and get something going here. Anything else to add?

Commissioner Paul Halajian: I have a question just so we don't get into hot water. What can we do offline?

Chair Patrick Boyd: As a subcommittee, we can get together and meet work on this issue. I think it would be problematic if we were getting together as a board. Greater than three people at a time, I believe is how it is how it's played, Rina?

Deputy City Attorney Rina Gonzalez: Right.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Thank you

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Subcommittee can meet and if you have assignments for the rest of us, you'll give us assignments if you need to.

Deputy City Attorney Rina Gonzalez: I would expect that if Mike needed assistance; he or Alicia would be in touch with the commission members.

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: That's correct. So we will certainly look at the research load related to this. Asking if we can certainly

have some assistance with that. We'll certainly let the commission members know. That'd be very helpful. Okay. Very good.

Commissioner Paul Halajian: Very good.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Thanks, Paul. Appreciate that. All right. Anything else on this topic? Everyone? Okay, then we will move on to item number seven, the Chairpersons Report, which is none. So we can skip that and go on to item number eight, unscheduled items, members of the Commission. And we have a new member. So welcome to your first day. Thank you. And would you like to tell us a little bit about yourself?

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None.

VIII. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Members of the Commission

Chair Patrick Boyd: We have a new member.

Commissioner Christopher Rocha: I'm excited to get to work with all of you. I'm a grassroots Historic Preservation guy, have been for years. I run Vintage Fresno. I wanted to kind of find a way to share residence history, I think it was maybe six or seven years ago that I had started it. I wanted to really get young people interested in historic preservation. So I started my Facebook and Instagram page, Vintage Fresno. I've been a huge advocate of my favorite building the Hotel Fresno and just trying to do anything I can to promote our historic properties. And I've enjoyed being an activist for that. And I'm just really happy to be here with all of you, but my regular job, I work for bitwise industries. I've been there just over a year now. And I am the executive assistant for our executive director of growth. And prior to that I was working for the downtown Fresno partnership in business.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Very nice. And we have seen you at quite a few of our meetings haven't we.

Vice Chair Jason Hatwig: He's also participated in May preservation weeks of the past. On rebuilding speaking engagements, those kinds of things. So Christopher, I'm glad you're here.

Commissioner Christopher Rocha: Thank you, Jason. I'm honestly historic preservation, I was a quiet kid. And Historic Preservation was something that got me so passionate that I had to the first time that I went and spoke at City Hall was for the Central Valley Cheese buildings, I believe. And as nerve racking as that was, I think, my passion, you know,

for Historic Preservation, kind of calmed my nerves. But yeah, I'm always happy to go and do any kind of speaking engagements for historic properties in the city.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Awesome. Well, hopefully, we have some very good projects, too, for you to be a part of and get to put your signature on, we usually do including this one. And thank you for being here. Absolutely. Alicia, do want to tell a little bit about yourself?

Chair Patrick Boyd: Awesome. Well, hopefully, we have some very good projects, too, for you to be a part of and get to put your signature on, we usually do including this one. And thank you for being here. Absolutely.

B. Staff

Historic Preservation Specialist Alicia: Hi, it's nice to see everybody. I'm coming from a pretty interdisciplinary background. Just started last Friday with the City of Fresno. I've worked with the federal government as well as with independent contractors and CRM. I'm trained as an archaeologist, but I've also done Historic Preservation for the City of San Francisco. And for Chi Yoga Valley National Park in Ohio. I am really this topic, that subcommittee is really important, right, the whole idea of space making and what goes behind place naming and inclusivity and equity that we as people who work in historic preservation have, at our hands, really, this commission really has a lot to do with how the City of Fresno will be seen by the community. And I think that's incredibly important to be inclusive and equitable to all folks who live here.

Chair Patrick Boyd: well said, welcome. Very good to have you here.

Commissioner Don Simmons: Are you from here?

Historic Preservation Specialist Alicia: I'm originally from Merced, California. I'm actually in Portland, Oregon, at the moment.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Mike, anything else you want to add to staff?

Assistant Director Mike Sanchez: Just say that we're very anxious to have Alicia start. We're excited to have her, she has a very diverse background, and she is from the valley. So we look forward to having her here and for all any and all challenges, and this is certainly one. So we look forward to having her coming on board. She'll be working remotely weeks until she physically relocate here. So a lot of her discussions with the subcommittee are likely to be virtual. For now, they're working on. She'll be here probably in the middle of next month.

Chair Patrick Boyd: Excellent. That's really good news. Kristina it's like finding another archaeologists like finding a unicorn. All right. unscheduled items, general public, I'm going to hand it out to anybody on our attendees list, as their if you want to put up a wave for us to bring you in any unscheduled items you would like to bring up at this time. Silence at least no hand waving. All right, let's bring it back in. Thank you, everybody. I appreciate everyone for taking part in this meeting. We've got some important work. And we're gonna get

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started here. I'm excited about it. Got a good team and I can't wait to report to everybody next month, which will be November 23 at 6pm and we'll see you on your computer screens.

C. General Public

None.

IX. NEXT MEETING: November 23, 2020, 6 PM.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Boyd adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted: