



## RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

Park District Headquarters  
4600 Crestmore Road  
Carriage House  
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509  
951-955-4398



Thursday, May 21, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Chair Hendon called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

#### 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Hendon.

#### 3.0 Roll Call - Commissioners Present:

Chair Hendon (MAL), , Hohenadl (I), Williamson (II), Lech (II), Lindquist (III), Farnbach (III), Phillips (IV), and Spencer (V); **Absent:** Vice Chair Atkins (I), Porter (IV), and Worden (V); **Park District Staff Present:** Herron, Luciano, and Kruse.

#### 4.0 Approval of Minutes – Action

*The minutes from the February 19, 2015 meeting were approved as printed. (M/S/C Spencer/Lindquist)*

#### 5.0 Special Recognition

#### 6.0 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission – None

#### 7.0 Subcommittee Reports

##### 7.1 Publications Subcommittee – Information

###### Journal Marketing

###### Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief

BC Herron reported the progress of 'Riverside Chronicles' marketing efforts as discussed at the August meeting. While there has been an increase in public interest, subscriptions have not increased.

##### 7.2 Archives Commission – Information

###### Steve Lech – Commission Member

CM Lech will not be able to attend the Archives commission meetings due to his appointment on the City Cultural Heritage Board. CM Lech reported that the Archives Commission met in March 2015. During the meeting, there was discussion of the possibility of a joint workshop between the Historical Commission and Archives Commission. The Archives Commission voiced an interest in a joint effort for the planning of the 125<sup>th</sup> County of Riverside celebration. The next Archives Commission meeting will be on July 15, 2015.

#### 8.0 Old Business

##### 8.1 Ideas to Republish the County of Riverside's Landmark Book – Discussion

###### Steve Lech, Commission Member

CM Lech proposed various locations for potential landmarks. Discussion was held about publication issues, designs, authoring, editing and various other proposals for a 125<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary book. BC Herron discussed errors in the numeration of landmark sites and will make corrections as necessary. BC Herron will place a RFP for a designer of the book.

**8.2 Local History Awards August Announcement – Discussion**

**Steve Lech, Commission Member**

**Job Code: 2015-4**

CM Lech proposed that the process for new nominations for History Awards begin in August. There will be an additional “Preservation Award.” Nomination form has been modified to include the preservation award. Nomination ballots are currently posted on the website. Commissioners should turn in nominations by mid-January so the subcommittee can finalize details for the May meeting. BC Herron agreed to send email notification the subcommittee to remind members of actions that need to be taken.

**8.3 Digitizing the County of Riverside’s Architectural Survey and Landmarks into the County’s**

**GIS database – Report**

**Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief**

BC Herron reports that there are roughly 2000 historic survey files that can be digitized to create a GIS layer for the public to access information about any historical site’s existence and significance. Digitization would include scanning and creating a GIS layer and is estimated to cost \$15,000-\$20,000. Discussion was had about which files would be appropriate for digitization. BC Herron will contact the various cities and County Planning and make an action item for the next meeting.

**8.4 Approve Budget Proposal for County’s 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Ideas – Action**

**Steve Lech, Commission Member**

**Job Code: 2015-4a**

*The Commission tentatively approved the Historical Commission suggested \$10,000 budget proposal for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. (M/S/C Lindquist/Farnbach)*

**9.0 New Business**

**9.1 Election of Chair of the Historical Commission for 2015/16 – Action**

**Job Code: 2015-5**

Due to by-laws, BC Herron requested this item be moved to the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**9.2 Election of Vice Chair of the Historical Commission for 2015/16 – Action**

**Job Code: 2015-6**

Due to by-laws, BC Herron requested this item be moved to the August 20th meeting.

**9.3 Preservation of former Navy Hospital in Norco – Discussion/Action**

**Don Williamson, Commission Member**

**Job Code: 2015-7**

One person spoke on the matter: Kevin Bash

Navy Hospital in Norco is the last standing WWII naval hospital that is entirely intact and the last and maybe only standing building from Architect Claud Beelman complex in the world. It is also where wheelchair basketball was invented.

BC Herron will determine the person/agency to write to on the State Historic Preservation to invite to a Historical Commission meeting to the Norcorion.



CM Williamson made a motion for BC Herron to send a letter seeking input from the SHPO's Office regarding the Naval Weapon Center. (M/S/C Williamson/Hohenadl)

**9.4 Historic Plaques on Riverside County Historic Landmarks – Discussion  
Don Williamson, Commission Member**

CM Williamson discussed the necessity for repair of historic plaques on Riverside County landmarks. BC Herron advised that a survey would need to be done to determine which plaques would need to be replaced, method to replace, and cost. BC Herron recommends that this project be done in conjunction of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. BC Herron will work with CM Williamson on material and CM Lech on the survey.

**10.0 Commissioners' Reports – Information**

**District 1**

CM Atkins did not attend the meeting.

CM Hohenadl reported that the historical site marking for Mary J. McDonald Gazebo and the creative art works of John Serro will be on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 1pm. 4/30/15. Lake Elsinore Historical Society had a ribbon cutting ceremony and reception for the reopening of the museum. The Valley of the Mist Chapter, National Society Colonial Dames 17<sup>th</sup> Century had a historical marking ceremony for the Winchester Community Unity Methodist Church. There is now a Sun City Historic Preservation Project under the guidance of the Sun City Civic Association Board.

**District II**

CM Williamson had nothing to report.

CM Lech reported that the Symposium on March 7<sup>th</sup> at Highland Springs had 127 people in attendance. Next year's Symposium will be at Murrieta Hot Springs on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Historic Highway 395 signs are being posted by the city. There will be a talk about Henry Jeckle on June 7<sup>th</sup> and Riverside International Raceway on October 6<sup>th</sup>. CM Lech is trying to get a list of Historical Commissioners from the past few years; the committee is approaching their 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

**District III**

Chair Hendon reported that the new County Courthouse opened in Banning a few weeks ago. CM Hendon mentioned a Facebook page he wanted everyone to take a look at: "You know you're from Banning and Beaumont when..."

CM Farnbach reported that the Historic Vail Ranch Headquarters site will be completed in December 2015.

CM Lindquist reported he attended the Ramona play, which was different than in the past with lots of fireworks and drama in the play this year. Things are looking good in the Hemet/San Jacinto area; there is a lot going on.

**District IV**

CM Porter did not attend the meeting.

CM Phillips reported that the City of Palm Springs held a celebration for National Preservation Month and held a symposium on "The Art of Preservation: Is it Worth It?" Information booths were set up by various history and preservation societies and committees. Cabot's Pueblo Museum held their Annual Gala. Heritage Festival was at Coachella Valley History Museum in March.

## **District V**

CM Spencer reported on planned events at the Gilman Ranch. On May 30 and 31, 2015, Wild West Days will be held at Gilman Ranch with several activities planned.

The Gilman Ranch Hands will host a dinner from 6:00-8:00 pm at Johnny Russo's restaurant in Banning; there will be a guest speaker (Bill Bell). These dinners will continue every other month through January 2016. Johnny Russo's is located at 1335 West Ramsey Street, Banning, CA.

The utility vehicle at Gilman Ranch was stolen and RivCoParks has replaced it.

CM Worden did not attend the meeting.

### **11.0 Park District Status Report – Information**

#### **11.1 Update on historic CIP projects and other items of interest.**

##### **Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief**

The Lawler Lodge Historic building assessment will be complete within the next two weeks. JAG Architect was selected as the firm to handle the project.

#### **11.2 Update on the collections inventory at Jensen Ranch and Gilman Ranch – Information**

##### **Laura Kruse, Museum Curator**

Ms. Kruse reported that she continues to attend training through PastPerfect. She continues to make progress toward the number of entries in the inventory. Ms. Kruse will be working on it putting together a plan for handling and cleaning artifacts and the collections space as well as guidelines for handling artifacts and researching the guidelines for cleaning up according to the Center for Disease Control. Ms. Kruse's last day with the District is July 8, 2015.

**12.0 Next meeting** – The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Highway 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

**13.0 Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m. (*M/S/C Hohenadl/Lech*)



Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief  
Secretary to the Historical Commission