



RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING



Glen Ivy Hot Springs
25000 Glen Ivy Road
Tiempo Lounge
Corona, CA 92883
951-955-4306

Thursday, February 19, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Hendon called the meeting to order at 1:33 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), Vice Chair Atkins (I), Hohenadl (I), Williamson (II), Lech (II), Lindquist (III), Farnbach (III), Porter (IV), and Spencer (V); **Absent:** Phillips (IV) and Worden (V); **Park District Staff Present:** Herron, Chavez, and Kruse

4.0 Approval of Minutes - Action

The minutes from the November 20, 2014 meeting were approved with the following corrections: (M/S/C Atkins / Lindquist)

10.0 Commissioners' Reports, District II, Steve Lech - . . . streets along the historical 365 395 through . . .

10.0 Commissioners' Report, District II, Don Williamson - ~~CM Williamson reported that the City of Corona has hired an urban renewal staff member to help address this issue.~~

5.0 Special Recognition

Mr. Herron introduced Jeffrey Gibbs, Concierge for Glen Ivy Hot Springs, and thanked him for allowing the Historical Commission to meet at their beautiful location. Mr. Gibbs gave a brief description and history of the Hot Springs.

6.0 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission

There were no public comments.

7.0 Subcommittee Reports

7.1 Publications Subcommittee – Information

a) Journal Marketing

Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief

BC Herron reported on the progress of the Riverside Chronicles' marketing efforts, including the outcome of the marketing letter as discussed at the August meeting. The website continues to promote the Chronicles on the front page of the Park District website. A link has been added that will allow guests to request subscriptions using the link. During the months of September 2014 to February 2015, 360 hits have been made to the site. Improvements continue to be made to the Park District website.

7.2 Archives Commission – Information

Steve Lech – Commission Member

CM Lech reported that the Archives Commission met on January 21, 2015. He commented on the progress of a joint workshop between the Historical Commission and Archives Commission. The Archives Commission newsletter was discussed. The Archives Commission voiced an interest in a joint effort for the planning of the 125th County of Riverside celebration.

8.0 Old Business

8.1 Local History Awards

8.1.1. Approve Local History Awards for 2015 – Action

Steve Lech, Commission Member/ Awards Subcommittee

Job Code: 2015-1

The Historical Commission was asked to approve the following nominations to receive the 2015 History Awards:

- i. Maurice Hodgen
- ii. William “Bill” Newberry
- iii. Coachella Valley Museum website
- iv. Coachella Valley Museum Heritage Day
- v. Dr. Priscilla Porter

The Awards Subcommittee met and determined that all of the above nominations met the criteria and were recommended to the Commission to receive the honorable Historical Commission History Award.

The Historical Commission approved the nominations listed above to receive the 2015 History Award.

(M/S/C Atkins/Hohenadl) Abstained by Priscilla Porter

8.1.2. Ideas to Improve the Visibility of the Local History Awards – Discussion

Steve Lech, Commission Member

Discussions included ideas to improve visibility and promotion of the local history awards. Mr. Lech challenged each Commissioner to nominate at least one candidate for next year’s award ceremony. He suggested that each Commissioner begin prompting the awards by early August. Mr. Herron added that a link and banner could be posted on the Park District website. Chair Hendon suggested flyers be printed and posted in all of the local libraries and historical facilities. The deadline for accepting nominations will be January 2016. Mr. Herron asked that the Awards Subcommittee and Commission define the program in more detail to determine how many awards would be given each year and to whom. He commented that preservation was a very important component that had been left off of the criteria for nominations this year. The Awards Subcommittee will meet again, make the recommended changes to the nomination criteria, and bring back before the Commission for approval.

8.2 Approve the 2015 County’s 125th Anniversary Celebration – Action

Steve Lech, Commission Member

Job Code: 2015-2

The Historical Commission reviewed the proposed ideas for the County of Riverside 125th Anniversary. Timeframe, tours, website, and advertising were discussed. Mr. Lech suggested creating a budget and plan to be presented to each of the Board Supervisors. This will aid in the attempt to ask for funding. Mr. Herron agreed that the Landmark Book should be included in the 125th celebration. It was noted that no other agency had begun the discussion of the celebration. It was also noted that it is the responsibility of the Park District’s General Manager to take the proposed ideas to the County of Riverside Executive Office.

*The Historical Commission approved the proposed list of ideas for the County of Riverside 125th Anniversary and asks that the Park District General Manager move forward with presenting those ideas to the County of Riverside Executive Office.
(M/S/C Atkins/Hohenadl)*

9.0 New Business

9.1 Ideas to Republish the County of Riverside's Landmark book – Discussion

Steve Lech, Commission Member

Discussions included republishing the County of Riverside's Historical Landmark book. It was noted that a budget item will need to be created to afford the costs for design, creation, and publication of the book. Once a budget has been decided, type, content, and design will need to go before the Historical Commission for approval. It was suggested by CM Porter that each Commissioner review the current book and brochure, and bring back ideas and corrections to a future meeting.

9.2 Digitizing the County of Riverside's Architectural Survey and Landmarks into the County's GIS database – Discussion

Keith Herron, Bureau Chief

Mr. Herron responded to the suggestion of digitizing the County of Riverside's Architectural Survey and County Landmarks into the County's GIS database. He noted that resource surveys were done in the 1980s. Thousands and thousands of records were located. Mr. Herron has located all of the records that had been filed at Parks Headquarters and filed them in his office. He commented that a project of this size would be quite expensive and require a staff member dedicated to this task.

10.0 Commissioners' Reports – Information

District I

CM Atkins reported that the Lake Elsinore City Council has asked the Lake Elsinore Historical Society to do research on the Christensen Family. She gave a brief background on the family and their heritage within the city. It was noted that the Manker Graveyard is located on what was originally the family's property. CM Atkins reported that the local community has received many inquiries about the Elsinore Naval and Military School, including one from a former cadet. The general consensus within the city is that residents would like to see the owners, the Garrett Corporation, sell or donate the property. The Garrett Corporation is not maintaining the property. The City of Elsinore plans to install monument signs directing the public to the property.

Studio 395, a local art group, has asked the Lake Elsinore Historical Society to support their organization in an attempt to obtain a National Endowment for the Arts grant, which will be used for the promotion of all community programs. Jane Chu, Chairman of National Endowment Association, will be visiting several areas within Riverside County, one to include a visit to the Lake Elsinore Museum. The Lake Elsinore Museum has purchased the PastPerfect software and hardware and has three of their members working on a cataloging project for the museum. CM Atkins thanked Laura Kruse, District Staff, for her recommendation.

CM Atkins announced the Grand Re-opening of the Lake Elsinore Historical Society and Museum. The event will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2015 and all are invited.

CM Hohenadl reported that Lois Burton, Chairman of the Sun City Historic Preservation, announced "Project of Menifee" which was recently formed under the auspices of the Sun City Civic Association Board. Ms. Burton is a member of the Menifee Valley Historical Society. CM Hohenadl commented that she recently found an interesting map in the Lake Elsinore Society Museum representing all of the County of Riverside Supervisorial Districts dated January 15, 1980. It showed how the districts were formed and who the Board Supervisors were at the time.

District II

CM Williamson gave an update on the Sunnyslope Cemetery. He reported that a Norco non-profit organization has filed a lawsuit against California Department of Corrections, alleging it has neglected the historic Lake Norconian Club. The suit seeks a court order to force the department, which owns the land, to maintain the club.

CM Lech reported that the Riverside Historical Society has received all of the Highway 395 signs and plans to move forward with installation. He announced that the Historic Symposium is planned for March 7, 2015. He was happy to announce that they have secured a sponsor.

District III

Chair Hendon had nothing to report. He showed off a copy of a 1963 Telephone Book of the local area that he recently purchased at a swap meet.

CM Farnbach reported on the status of the Vail Ranch Restoration project. Restoration of the four acre site is in full swing. Most of the underground work is finished. Five of the six buildings are currently in a state of construction (or deconstruction). The project is on track with an estimated completion date of fall 2015. CM Farnbach reported that the 124-year old Temecula Hotel has been sold. The new owners are very historically minded. They are planning to institute a bed and breakfast/weddings venue. CM Farnbach reported that the Kolb Homestead Cabin, located about 10 miles east of Temecula, has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. The current owner seems interested and ready for renovations.

CM Lindquist reported that a local elementary school had recently been demolished.

District IV

CM Porter reported that the *History Highway Museum Guide* will be reprinted with current updates and will be made available in time for the Heritage Festival, which is set for Saturday, March 28, 2015. She announced other publications scheduled to be released in the next two months. Coachella Valley History Museum was recently the recipient of a \$50,000 grant. The award ceremony was held on March 15, 2015. All award monies will be used for an educational program and to enhance the museum's existing Date Museum.

CM Porter reported that progress was being made in converting the former Welwood Murray Library for use as a research and archival facility for the Palm Springs Historical Society. She noted several of the upgrades planned for the site.

CM Porter announced the 2014-15 lists of exhibits at the Palm Springs Historical Society Museum. She also announced the *4th Friday Firehouse* lecture series which takes place the last Friday of the month, beginning February through April.

CM Porter announced events that had occurred or are scheduled at La Quinta Museum, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, Cabot's Pueblo Museum, and the General Patton Memorial Museum. Events include but are not limited to the expansion plans for General Patton Memorial Museum, Cabot's annual gala fundraising event on May 16, and the annual fundraising event held at Agua Caliente Cultural Museum on October 11, 2014.

CM Phillips did not attend the meeting.

District V

CM Spencer reported on three planned events at the Gilman Ranch. From April 23 through April 26, 2015, Gilman Ranch will host the Living History Encampment – Journey Back in Time. Actors will bring history to life from the 1500s to the 1800s.

On May 9, 2015, Gilman Ranch will host a Spring Tea. On May 30 and 31, 2015, Wild West Days will be held at Gilman Ranch with several activities planned.

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

BC Herron reported that Mel Green, Historic Engineer, recently visited Lawler Lodge. He thought that the building is in good shape. The building has been reopened. The Jensen Ranch seismic assessment is planned.

BC Herron reported that the recommended corrections to the sign posted on the Board of Supervisor's table in the lobby of the County Administrative Center have been made.

The Lawler Lodge nomination has been approved and accepted by the Board of Supervisors and is now a County of Riverside County Landmark.

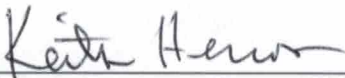
11.2 Update on the collections inventory at Jensen Ranch and Gilman Ranch

Laura Kruse, Museum Curator

Ms. Kruse reported that she recently attended additional training through PastPerfect. She continues to make progress toward the number of entries in the inventory. Progress has been made toward rodent control at Gilman Ranch. Now that rodent control has improved, inventory and cleaning the collections will move forward.

12.0 Next meeting – The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2015, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at Park District Headquarters.

13.0 Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m. (*M/S/C Hohenadl/Lech*)



Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief
Secretary to the Historical Commission