



Riverside County
Regional Park & Open-Space
Historical Commission Meeting



Thursday, February 16, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

Corona Woman's Improvement Club
1101 South Main Street
Corona, CA 92882
951-955-4398

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by CM Lech.

3.0 Roll Call - Commissioners Present: Hohenadl (I), Atkins (I), Vice Chair Williamson (II), Chair Lech (II), Farnbach (III), Porter (IV), Wenzell-Lauhead (IV), Howlett (V), and Hendon (MAL); Absent: None; Park District Staff Present: Bangle, Herron, Baird and Luciano.

4.0 Approval of Minutes – Action

November 17, 2016 approved. (M/S/C Atkins/Hohenadl)

5.0 Special Recognition

BC Herron announced the resignation of CM Lindquist from the Historical Commission, as well as his own retirement from the Park District.

6.0 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission

Mrs. Rebecca Farnbach spoke in regards to Casa Loma, Temecula, CA.

7.0 Subcommittee Reports

7.1 Publications Subcommittee – Information

Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief

BC Herron requested to move in combination with item 9.1

7.2 Archives Commission – Information

Steve Lech – Commission Member

Mr. Babawale Alao, DPA gave a brief update.

8.0 Old Business – None

8.1 County 125th Anniversary – Information

Steve Lech, Commission Chair

Chair Lech gave an update on the progress.

8.2 Progress Local History Award Nominations – Action

Steve Lech, Commission Member

Job Code: 2017-01

Three nominees:

Jerri Vogelsang Approved, (M/S/C Wenzell-Lauhead/Hendon); (Abstention, Porter)

Steve Vaught *Not Approved, (M/S/C Wenzell-Lauhead/Hendon); (Abstention; Williamson)*

Kevin Bash *Approved, (M/S/C Atkins/Hohenadl)*

8.3 Historic Route 395 Signs – Information

Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief

BC Herron gave an update on the Historic Route 395 signs and placement. Placement of the remainder of signs are on hold until further notice.

8.4 Norco Naval Hospital – Information

Kevin Bash and Bill Wilkman

A presentation was given on the history of the Naval Hospital.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Riverside County Chronicles – Action

Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief

Job Code: 2017-02

Approved, (M/S/C Farnbach/Hendon); (Abstention; Lech)

10.0 Tentative Future Agenda Items

10.1 Methods to use to increase the number of applications for local History awards and Landmark.

10.2 Language on nomination application.

11.0 Commissioners' Reports – Information

11.1 Individual Commissioner Reports attached.

12.0 Park District Status Report – Information

12.1 Update on historic CIP projects and other items of interest.

Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief

13.0 Next meeting – May 18, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., Park District Headquarters-Carriage House, 4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509.

14.0 Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.



**Keith Herron, Resources Bureau Chief
Secretary to the Historical Commission**

Item 11.1

Commissioners Reports

Riverside County Historical Commission
February 16, 2017

The City of Lake Elsinore's Time Capsule Opening was on 12/11/2016. The capsule was buried in 1991 and located outside City Hall on Main Street. There were 14 items ranging from "100" anniversary centennial pins to the three-inch thick telephone book when the area code was 714. An unusual item was an 8 ½ x 11 inch page of 20 slides. Since we could not make out the images, we had them transferred to a disc. The result was an interesting collection of pictures taken in 1991. We have a nice display at the Lake Elsinore Historical Museum Library until it's re-burial in May of 2017.

The City of Lake Elsinore is finally getting our historical preservation project back on track with a meeting held earlier this month with Joyce Hohenadl as the chairperson. We are pleased they have expressed interest in moving forward. The permanent name will be the Cultural Heritage Board.

There has been lots of discussion about our Grand Prix motorcycle races being held in the earlier-race format. Steve Miller, Dirt Series Racing, is in charge of this year's race. The first meeting of representatives with many of the local businesses attending was held last week. We are looking forward to an exciting race with activities from November 9-13.

The City of Lake Elsinore approved the naming of Christensen Park located at Canyon Hills Road and Piedmont in the Canyon Hills area for the Hans Christensen family who owned over 5,000 acres of property in the Lake Elsinore-Menifee area. Today, they have over 30 descendants living and working in Riverside County for their contributions to the community as their ancestors before them.

Lake Elsinore Historical Society is in the museum tour business. These tours are specially-arranged tours and are held outside of normal museum hours.

Earlier this month we had a car club called the Senior Cruisers from Corona come to visit. They meet once each month and drive their restored, vintage autos to a nearby location. Their vehicles were great and they spent more than two hours at our museum.

Yesterday afternoon, we had a Cub Scout tour. It was our largest group ever with 14 scouts, six siblings, and eight parents. These are such fun because many of the parents love hearing about Elsinore's history and do not know the museum exists. They plan to return.

We receive inquiries regularly about the special tours.

The new Golden Corral restaurant is expected soon and is located east of the #15 off Hwy #74 and Dexter. Stadium Pizza plans to open in March. Their location is on North Main Street in the old Alpha Beta building.

Lastly, but far more important, the City of Lake Elsinore named Joyce Hohenadl as the Citizen of Quarter at their January 24, 2017 meeting. She was presented with an impressive plaque.

Ruth Atkins
District #1

RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

BY JOYCE HOHENADL

1. Ruth Atkins was awarded the Tom Thomas Memorial Award at the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce awards banquet for her hard work in our community.

2. The Lake Elsinore Historic Preservation Ad Hoc Committee is now renamed the Cultural Heritage Board. Ruth Atkins and I are on this board and we had our first meeting on February 6, 2017. Our goals are for the city to adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance and to pursue applying for a Certified Local Government Program along with implementing other preservation programs.

3. Also, we have a strong Lake Elsinore Citizen's Committee with a website that will be posting upcoming events and meetings including the Lake Elsinore Historical Society and the Riverside County Historical Commission meetings.

This concludes my report.

JOYCE HOHENADL
DISTRICT 1

Commissioner report (Steve Lech) –

1. Riverside County Heritage Association
 - a. Formed as of August 8
 - b. Expect to see master online calendar countywide
2. 2017 Riverside County History Symposium
 - a. Will be March 4 at Historic Hemet Theater
 - i. Deadline to register is tomorrow, February 17
3. Gilman Ranch
 - a. Am currently researching wagons and need more information
 - b. GRH will begin offering small-scale weddings at Gilman Ranch. Weddings only – no receptions. Thanks to District for allowing this.
 - c. Local history book sales to begin there.
4. New Books
 - a. *Back in the Day Vol 2* by Steve Lech and Kim Jarrell Johnson (October 1, 2016)
 - b. *The San Gorgonio Pass Rendezvous* by Virginia Sisk
 - c. *Riverside's Landmark Legacy* by the City of Riverside Historic Preservation section
 - d. *Cathedral City – The Early Years* by Robert Hillery
5. Articles for May, 2017 journal
 - a. Virginia Sisk – M. French Gilman
 - b. Bob Kent – Murry Schloss and Heart O' the Hills
 - c. Marilee Harkinson – Short History of Blythe for Centennial
 - d. Carl Schultz – History of the Development of the Indio Mall
6. Riverside Historical Society
 - a. Looking into writing a book of Riverside from 1970-2020 for city's 150th in 2020
 - b. Scanning grant to RMM
 - c. Judged History Day on January 28
 - i. Give awards for local projects
 - d. April 2 – When Citrus was King, Labels were Gold by Steve Mains
 - e. June 4 – School Desegregation in Riverside – Walt Parks

Archives Commission Report - Could not attend

Riverside County Historical Commission
District IV
February 16, 2017

Submitted by Priscilla H. Porter

Coachella Valley History Museum (CVHM)



Annual Meeting Heritage Palms Country Club (Jan. 27) The 2017 Periscope will be available for members. *Water Towers and Farm Implements in the Coachella Valley.*

Arabian Nights February 11 Immerse your senses, experience an exotic array of Middle Eastern food, be mesmerized by a tribal belly dance, and enjoy a cultural talk about the growth of the date industry.

Heritage Festival – March 18. Celebrate the culture and history of the Coachella Valley. Free and fun for the entire family.



Landmark Status: 1909 School House at CVHM

Wording for the Riverside County Historical Landmark plaque for the 1909 Schoolhouse:

1909 Indio Public School House
Riverside County Historic Landmark Designation; District 4
Presented on May 11, 2016 by the Riverside County Historical Commission

The School House is the only existing original, one-room school house in the greater desert community and the oldest public building in the city of Indio. It was used continuously as a school from 1909-1960. It was a social center for the community and even served as a hospital during the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 following WWI. The building is an outstanding early example of "desert craftsman" architecture. The School House was moved for the third time to its current location in 1999. With funds from private individuals and the city of Indio, the School House was completely restored by the Meredith & Simpson Construction Company and dedicated in 2005.

Palm Springs Historical Society

Margaret O'Brien Day (Nov. 17) Margaret O'Brien arrived at The Adobe in a 1949 Packard convertible to be greeted by a crowd of fans. Mayor of Palm Springs, Robert Moon, honored her with a plaque, proclaiming November 19, 2016 to be Margaret O'Brien Day. Margaret answered questions and told fun stories about how her Oscar was stolen and later returned after 40 years. The beautiful actress graciously talked with fans, signing autographs, and granting numerous selfies for hours.

Conversation with Hugh Kaptur (Jan. 26) Speakers: **Gary Johns and Hugh Kaptur**
Gary Johns, one of Palm Springs best-known modernist experts, talks with one of Palm Springs "starchitects" - Hugh Kaptur.

Palm Springs - Mid-century Mecca (Feb. 16) A talk about the birth of modernism, and its influence on the desert modern architects that made Palm Springs the mid-century Mecca it is today.

Modernism Week Feb 16-26, 2017 Palm Springs is the site of some of the greatest collections of Mid-century Modernist architecture still intact. The event fosters the contemporary thinking and appreciation of mid-century architecture and design with numerous events.

From Here and There - The Modernist Architects Who Shaped Palm Springs (March 16)

One of Palm Springs' best known modernist aficionados, Robert Imber, gives his unique perspective on the Modernist Architects and their work in Palm Springs.

Cabot's Pueblo Museum

Cultural Weekend Events: *Artistry + Ancestry | Show + Sales Oaxaca* (Member Preview Jan. 26; Jan. 27-29); ***Mata Ortiz Pottery*** (Member Preview: Feb. 23; Exhibit: Feb. 24-26); ***Hopi Kachina Carvers*** (Member Preview: March 9; Exhibit March 10-12)

Artisans at the Pueblo: Gwen Fortner - sculpting in clay to create terracotta stonewear; **Sergio Naduville** raku pottery and his high-heat fired pottery with symbolism and life meanings; **Sallé Kirby** expressive impressionism painter, printmaker, photographer, and multi-media artist. (Jan. 8)

Palm Springs Air Museum

Special Exhibition: *Justice Illuminated*. The art of Arthur Szyk with thirty-two full-color photo mural panels shedding light on cultural and political movement of the first half of the 20th century, World War II and the Holocaust with the America and Jewish response (through Jan. 31). Another special exhibit *At Attention*, presented by the National Military Archives, tells the stories and treasures of our nation's veterans (Jan. 4-17). On Jan. 14, the museum held an open cockpit F4F Wildcat and a lecture by Dr. Ed Gordon "Japan Strikes at Dawn: Defeat at Pearl Harbor, the Philippines and Singapore." The museum is holding a SciTech Academy for K-5th grade students with after-school classes exploring robotics, video production, video game design, wacky science labs, music and art.

Desert Hot Springs Historical Society

On Jan.14, 2017. the Desert Hot Springs Historical Society held their first field trip with George Kline, Field Office Archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management. Kline served as guide for the petroglyphs at Corn Springs, a major stopover site for prehistoric Native American groups. Their next field trip will be a **tour of the historic B-H Ranch on Sat. March 25, 2017**. This historic ranch site hosted Hollywood stars and celebrities from throughout the country during the 1940's and 50's. It's original rock buildings remain. January 26, 2017 was the date of Their January Soup Supper, featuring Sol Boites, speaking on "Rusted Cans and Broken Pottery Tell Stories: Revealing history through artifact collection." **The next Soup Supper will be Thur. April 27**. On **March 17** there will be a noon luncheon meeting featuring speakers on living green and the demonstration garden in DHS. Members and interested people are all welcome. The January "Fun Facts" featured Viola Dinsmore, one of the first settlers and a woman who built and operated the first inn and restaurant in the area that would become Desert Hot Springs. "Fun Facts" are sent to the membership every month.

The DHS Historical Society is working on a major exhibit with Cabot's Pueblo Museum scheduled to open in the Fall of 2017. This will be the first time the 2nd floor will be open for visitors since Cabot passed away in 1965. The DHSHS board and officers meet on the first Thurs. of every month at 7:00 AM at the Sidewinder Restaurant in Desert Hot Springs, Visitors are welcome. The Archive group doing research meets every Fri. morning from 8 to 12. For information on any of the of the past or upcoming activities, please contact: Audrey@moefamily.net

La Quinta Museum

Tell Me a Story: Women in the Arts (Jan. 19 – April 30) In this collaboration, 95 artists accepted the invitation to *Tell Me a Story* by creating a piece of art on an 18"x24" canvas, accompanied by a written piece telling the story of their artwork. The result is a rich and varied collection of styles, techniques, mediums, memories, insights, and voices of creative women.

Indian Wells Historic Preservation Foundation (IWHPF)

The Annual Meeting of the IWHPF was held December 4 at the IW Resort Hotel. At the event, the Desi Arnaz Western Hills Hotel, (now IW Resort Hotel) was designated as Indian Wells Historic Landmark No. 3.

Background Information: In the mid-1950's a group of visionaries joined to develop a beautiful area at the base of the foothills of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountain Ranges. Their plans included a first-class hotel to house the tourists who would be drawn to this vacation spot. While under construction, a group of hoteliers from Texas brought their brand name to the project, added the celebrity cache of the Desi Arnaz name and the property became the Desi Arnaz Western Hills Hotel. As one half of the most famous television couple of the day, that name would be a calling card for celebrities and locals as well as the tourist trade. The hotel had its grand opening party in April 1957.

This was a headline of the Desert Sun newspaper April 2, 1957:

"Desi Arnaz luxurious Western Hills Hotel Officially Opens to Public with Spectacular Preview Parties." The article continued: *"The new luxurious Desi Arnaz Western Hills Hotel opened its doors to the public this weekend and became another example of growth in the ever-developing desert area. Early Friday afternoon, a special plane left Los Angeles with celebrities of television and screen and many distinguished guests to the Palm Springs airport where they were entertained while they awaited turns for helicopter transportation to the million-dollar hotel which nestled at the edge of the desert near the Santa Rosa mountains, bordering on the beautiful greens of the Indian Wells Country Club."*

Desi's power in Hollywood, combined with helicopters from his series "Whirlybirds" provided him with the opportunity to fly his coterie of pals to enjoy a star-studded party. After the evening's revelry folks were taken by limousine back to the Desert Air and Palm Springs airstrips to return to Hollywood. The Desi Arnaz hotel began with 36 units with immediate plans for another 30 units. Each room had its own private patio and air-conditioning. There were two pools, superb cuisine, tennis courts, ping-pong, shuffleboard, dancing and entertainment nightly in the Bongo Room including maracas and tambourine lessons for its "Latin Fiesta."

Ed Hamilton, a business associate of Desi Arnaz, hosted a party at the Howard Manor for Frank Bogert because he was leaving the El Mirador as manager to become the manager of the brand-new Desi Arnaz Western Hills Hotel. Frank Bogert had an extensive background of being manager of the El Mirador Hotel, the Thunderbird Country Club, the famous Racquet Club and the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce. He was involved in an unbelievable list of community activities and boards.

Around the same time Eddie Susalla and Paul Prom joined Milt Hicks and Desi Arnaz to begin building the Indian Wells Golf Course and Country Club. Eddie Susalla ultimately became the golf pro and manager. Milt Hicks was the builder/developer. Milt later became the president of the Indian

Wells Country Club and won the very first tournament when it was called the Palm Springs Desert Classic. Three years after the hotel and country club were built, Arnold Palmer won the tournament.

By the early 60's, the fledgling Desert Classic in Palm Springs hitched its wagon onto another celebrity, Bob Hope and "the little tournament that could" grew into a world famous PGA Pro-Am and moved to the East Valley. The tournament was played over five days on four courses; Tamarisk, El Dorado, Bermuda Dunes and Indian Wells. The top names in all of golf played here for years along with the biggest names in show business, sports and the lucky amateurs who paid to play with them all for the benefit of local charities. The hotel was rampant with fun that became legendary. Every night after play, the hotel hosted jam sessions that were so exclusive, only players, club members and a few local insiders were eligible to enjoy the impromptu entertainment. You might see Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicholas and Doug Sanders rolling up their slacks, donning grass skirts and Hawaiian leis and doing the hula. Anybody who was anybody was a part of the gaiety; Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Danny Thomas, Jackie Gleason, on and on. If these walls could talk! And actually they do. You can stroll through the hallway and see a sample of the famous faces who have passed through this historic hotel over the past sixty years.

Historic Landmark No. 3

Desi Arnaz
Western Hills Hotel

76-661 Hwy. 111
1957

Indian Wells Historic Preservation Foundation

December 4, 2016

Report for the Riverside County Historical Commission meeting of February 16, 2017
Prepared by Commissioner Nicolette Wenzell-Lauhead

Modernism Week begins today in Palm Springs. The event, which continues through the 26th of February, brings around 25,000 people to Palm Springs to celebrate all things mid-century modern. Modernism Week includes walking tours, lectures, home tours, workshops, and of course, cocktail parties. In addition to educating thousands about Palm Springs' plethora of mid-century modern architecture, architects, and lifestyles, many who come to Palm Springs for this event also learn about the City's history leading up to the modernism explosion and the different types of architecture and individuals who shaped early Palm Springs.

As part of Modernism Week, the Palm Springs Public Library will be hosting an exhibit about remarkable architect William Cody. The exhibit, originally housed at the A+D museum in Los Angeles, has been sized down slightly and placed in the library's Learning Center. Entitled, "Fast Forward: The Architecture of William F. Cody," the exhibit opens Friday, February 17th and will remain open the duration of Modernism Week from 10:00am-4:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 online or \$15.00 at the door. In addition, on Monday, February 20th, there will be a lecture and reception at the library about Cody and his work from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Tickets are \$55.00.

Modernism Week is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports preservation efforts throughout the entire state of California as well as giving scholarships to local students pursuing degrees in architecture and design.

For more information about Modernism Week or to buy tickets, please visit their website at www.modernismweek.com.

La Serena Villas recently opened in downtown Palm Springs. The hotel, a Palm Springs Class One historic site, has undergone extensive restoration. Originally opened in 1933, the property had fallen into extreme disrepair and was abandoned for many years. Located at 339 South Belardo Road, the hotel is an excellent example of not only the importance but the success of preservation in Palm Springs.