



**FRESNO COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARKS & RECORDS
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

January 8, 2026

4:00 PM

Fig Garden Regional Library

3071 W. Bullard

Fresno, CA 93711



MINUTES

Members Present: William Secrest, Jr., Pat Hunter, Dr. Susan Pappas, Sue Loucks, Dr. James Kus, Nick Yovino, James Sponsler, Kevin Nehring, Vicki Clason, Diane Tjerrild, Janet Nelson and William Bertolani Jr.

Members Absent: David Rodriguez, Kenneth Zech and John Mendoza

Staff: James Tyner, Support Services Manager, and Melissa Scroggins, librarian

Members of the Public: Elliot Balch

- 1) **Call to Order at 4:11 PM by Melissa Scroggins, secretary**
- 2) **Welcome and Introductions.** The group was welcomed back and guest Elliot Balch was introduced from Downtown Fresno Partnership
- 3) **Adoption of Agenda.**
 - a) Motion to adopted draft agenda by: **Pappas, Seconded: Nehring Passed Unanimously.**
- 4) **Approval of Minutes**
 - a) Add Janet Nelson to those present.
 - b) Motion to approve minutes of Nov 13th, 2025, as amended, by; **Pappas, Seconded: Loucks. Passed Unanimously.**
- 5) **Election of officers** Motion to move to later in meeting by; **Kus, Seconded: Nehring. Passed Unanimously. Motion to elect David Rodriguez, Chairman and Kenneth Zech as Vice Chairman by Kus, Seconded: Nehring. Passed Unanimously.**
- 6) **Public Comment: None**
- 7) **Landmarks**
 - a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County:
 - b) Historic Places: **Liberty Cemetery was added to the list on 1/6/2026.**

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- c) **Centennial Businesses:** No Update
- d) **Centennial Communities:** No Update
- e) **Centennial Farms:** No Update
- f) **Centennial Schools:** Sierra High School- to go to Board on 1/27/2026
- g) **Historic District:** No Update
- h) **Discussion on threatened landmarks in the County of Fresno:** Van Ness Arch is being moved by High Speed Rail (its owner now) to H and Mariposa not threatened but moving.
- i) **Discussion on potential landmarks in the County of Fresno:** None
- j) **Website:** No Update

8 Reports and Administrative Items

- a) **Chairman's Report:** none.
- b) **Secretary's Report**
 - i) Roster updates let secretary know.

9) New Business:

a) Commissioner Yovino introduced Elliot Balch from the Downtown Fresno Partnership. Mr. Balch reported that with the upcoming new Superior Courthouse project, it's come to Downtown Fresno Partnership's and now Fresno County's attention that Courthouse Park has no Master Plan in place for its use as a green space and community gathering. There is a grant opportunity through Trust for Public Land to obtain funds to help develop such a plan. He is asking the HLRC for a support letter for the grant application, it is due 1/16/2026. A sample support letter was provided to the board. **Motion to approve letter as written. Kus, Seconded: Nehring. Passed 10 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstention.**

10) Old Business:

- a) **Ad-hoc Exploratory Committee— members: Nehring, Rodriguez, Sponsler, Nelson and Clason-** have not met yet. Melissa will set up a meeting at the library.
- b) **Interwar Period Committee Report**—Commissioner Secrest provided a list of eligible properties based on age and appearance. Commissioner Sponsler suggested the Brix Building on Fulton be added.
- c) **Historical Marker Program-** Commissioner Pappas updated that she had checked with the county on making markers and they don't have a mechanism to take money from the public for that. She is going to talk to the 2 private vendors again.
- d) **Mapping our Landmarks-** Melissa updated that they are working with their contacts at the Board to find out how to get a GIS layer. She was also contacted by Public Works on whether the Commission had such a system in place because of a report.

11) Commissioner Reports:

a) **Sponsler-** Carnegie Garage project- has uncovered some buried walls and the old boiler of the old Carnegie Library on Broadway and some walls of the Spinney/IIOF building. He showed pictures and brought a brick from the Carnegie Library to give to

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the Heritage Center at the Library.

b) Hunter- Heritage Fresno has calendars and newsletters available.

c) Nehring- Kerman Historical Society now has custody of Kerman Newspaper from 1919-current. They are trying to digitize and preserve.

12) Adjournment. Motion to Adjourn at 5:42 PM by **Pappas, Seconded: Nehring. Passed Unanimously.**

Follow Up Actions		
HLRC Support Letter to	Melissa	
Motion RE: Mapping our Landmarks	MS/JT	
Set up Meeting for Rodriguez, Nehring, Sponsler and Nelson for Ad Hoc Committee	Melissa	

Agenda Items for Next Meeting		
3/12/2026	Firebaugh Book	Commissioner Bertaloni
3/12/2026	Underground Garage presentation	Commissioner Tjerrild

Future Meetings 2026		
3/12/2026	4:00 PM	FIG Garden Library
5/14/2026	4:00 PM	TBD
9/10/2026	4:00 PM	TBD
11/12/2026	4:00 PM	TBD