

## Historical Landmarks & Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held in the Sarah McCardle Room at the main library on March 9, 2006.

Members present: Nancy Enloe, Cathy Rehart, Virgil Ahlberg, Roger Taylor, Don Shantz, James Kus, Penny Raven  
Members excused: Aileen Bos, Steve Barile, Judy Ganulin, Randy McFarland, Bud Olson  
Members absent: Prudence Zalewski  
Others present: Chris Oberti, Bob Werner, Gilbert Carter, Gwen Peosi, Leslie Knobel, Sharon Weaver, Greg Borba, Caren Anderson, Sandra Dumlao, Joe Prado, Karen Garrett, Crystal Karim, Randolph Hernandez, Karen Bosch Cobb, Elida Mendoza

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. Vice Chair Roger Taylor called the meeting to order with the sound of a whistle!
2. Welcome and Introductions: Introductions were held, and Mr. Taylor recognized Mrs. Nancy Enloe who was appointed to the Commission by the Board of Supervisors on January 24, 2006.
3. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.
4. Approval of minutes: The minutes of January 12, 2006 were approved with the following corrections:  
Page 2, 2nd paragraph: Commissioner Rehart said a train would be inappropriate since there were no trains in 1856. She suggested a stagecoach and wagon converge at Millerton.  
Page 4, a): October 2005 (not September) Fresno Magazine article.  
Page 6, under Unassigned: the Hmong Memorial was installed in 2005.  
Page 7, item d), second sentence: should be Bill Secret, Jr. (not Bill Secret).
5. Comments from the Public  
  
No comments.
6. Records
  - a. Records Approved as Recommended by Staff:

Following the procedure recommended at the January meeting to delegate to the Secretary the responsibility for making recommendations about the disposition of certain records, the Vice Chair asked if there were any records Commissioners requested to be pulled from the list where no Commission review was recommended. Mrs. Rehart requested the Personal Property records be pulled for discussion. There were no further requests to pull items for discussion, and it was moved by Commissioner Ahlberg, seconded by Commissioner Kus, to approve the retention schedules below as recommended by staff for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

| <b>Record Type</b>                    | <b>Schedule Number</b> | <b>Department</b>                 | <b>Recommend Commission Review</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Health Administration Records         | 1450.07.01             | Community Health                  | No                                 |
| Communicable Disease Division Records | 1450.09.01             | Community Health                  | No                                 |
| Case Files                            | 1450.17.01             | Employment & Temporary Assistance | No                                 |
| Risk Management Documents             | 1675.04.01             | Personnel Services                | No                                 |
| Victim/Witness Case Files             | 1525.06.01             | Probation Dept. - Adult Division  | No                                 |

**HLRC  
March 9, 2006**

b. Records discussed and approved individually.

| Record Type  | Schedule Number | Department        | Recommend Commission Review |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Record Books   | 1150.02.01      | Assessor/Recorder | Yes                         |
| <p>These are permanent records. It is the goal of the department to image from original books although some books are in bad shape. The spine of the books are cut off in order to image them. Mr. Werner suggested some of the books can be restored and kept as samples of some of the original records. Commissioner Rehart recommended Mr. Bill Secrest Jr. as someone who could review and identify records for historic significance.</p> <p>These books include birth, death, and marriage records. Identity theft and personal privacy laws have made the Assessor's office very careful about releasing this information. No member of the public can come in and see the records. Mr. Werner said that unfortunately this policy has made genealogical research more difficult. The medical information on the birth records cannot be disclosed.</p> <p>There was no further discussion, and it was moved by Commissioner Ahlberg, seconded by Commissioner Kus, and carried to approve this retention schedule as recommended by staff for approval by the Board of Supervisors.</p>   |                 |                   |                             |
| Real Property Records  | 1150.04.01      | Assessor/Recorder | Yes                         |
| <p>This schedule contains real property records with various retention periods; some permanent, some not. The records show a history of the property. This schedule also contains original and/or imaged parcel maps and parcel history.</p> <p>There was some discussion about properties that may be historically significant because of the people who resided there or some other reason. Commissioners asked if records are permanently stored for these historically significant properties. Mrs. Bosch Cobb discussed the List of Historic Places developed by the Commission, and a copy will be sent the Assessor for staff use in identifying some of these properties. Mr. Werner mentioned that among the records he found the opening program for the Hall of Records. He will give a copy to Mrs. Bosch Cobb for the application she is working on to place the Hall of Records on the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>It was moved by Commissioner Ahlberg, seconded by Commissioner Kus and carried to approve the retention schedule as recommended by staff for approval by the Board of Supervisors.</p> |                 |                   |                             |

**HLRC  
March 9, 2006**

|   |            |                   |    |
|---|------------|-------------------|----|
| Personal Property Records   | 1150.04.02 | Assessor/Recorder | No |
| <p>These records contain information about business equipment sold. Mr. Werner said he does not consider these records as being of great historic appeal or interest. Personal property is considered business equipment, machinery. It was moved by Commissioner Shantz, seconded by Commissioner Rehart and carried to approve the retention schedule as recommended by staff for approval by the Board of Supervisors.</p> |            |                   |    |

7. Landmarks

a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County

1) Pending Applications – Action Needed

a) Cedar Crest Resort - Huntington Lake

Since Mr. Barry Fitt did not respond to two letters from Mrs. Bosch Cobb requesting further information concerning this application, Commissioners agreed not to carry this item for further discussion.

b) Pelonian Packing House – Reedley

Ms. Sharon Weaver discussed the application and distributed a photo of the mule team that brought bricks to build the building that was to become the Pelonian Packing House. She also noted a couple of corrections on the application. Commissioner Rehart commented that it is a very attractive building.

Commissioner Taylor said it is very important to save these buildings, particularly in the east side of the valley. He added that the immigrants to the valley were very influential in starting the packing industry, and it would be very appropriate to place this property on the List of Historic Places.

It was moved by Commissioner Rehart, seconded by Commissioner Raven, and carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that this property be placed on the County's List of Historic Places.

Ms. Weaver is working with architect Jim Oakes. She plans to open an antiques shop, a coffee shop, and to use some of the space for offices. The building is 12,000 square feet.

Mrs. Bosch Cobb will notify the City of Reedley about the Commission's action today to recommend placement of this building on the County's List of Historic Places. She will also notify Supervisor Case.

2) Applications Under Review

a) Recommendation to place the Hall of Records on the County's List of Historic Places - The County Facilities Committee will discuss the Hall of Records at their meeting on March 17. The Board of Supervisors date will follow. Mrs. Bosch Cobb asked Chairman McFarland and Vice Chairman Taylor to be present at the Board meeting. She confirmed that Mr. John Powell is credited for researching the details of the Hall of Records' design and construction in the agenda item.

3) Suggestions for other applications

a) Del Rey Historic Properties - Commissioner Taylor and his wife toured Del Rey and photographed the properties previously identified. They found historically significant structures which he described as possessing quality architectural features. The structures included churches, houses, commercial buildings, and industrial buildings. He will do more research to determine the ownership of the properties, and he wants to start filing in applications. Commissioner Raven will research the house at 10927 E. Lincoln.

b) Inventory

1) Review Cities & Discuss sites which should be added - No discussion.

4) Resolution Request

a) *Preserve America* - Huntington Lake Basin

Ms. Chris Oberti, representing the Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy, came to the Commission to request support for a resolution. *Preserve America* is a project in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U. S. Department of the Interior, and the U. S. Department of Commerce. The initiative's goals are to promote historical resources in communities.

Ms. Oberti spoke about the Sierra National Forest 's land management plan, and she also gave a historical account of the Huntington Lake area. She provided some information about the Billy Creek guard station built in 1929.

The Billy Creek Museum has been restored. Outdoor exhibits are scheduled, and all work is done through donations and grants. The Huntington Lake area has been designated as a historic district. Some cabins are in their original condition. Ms. Oberti explained that approval of the resolution will allow the Huntington Lake Basin to apply for grant funds. If funds are received, plans are to install sprinklers in the museum. Commissioners were interested in adding Huntington Lake to their list of areas to tour.

There was no further discussion and it was moved by Commissioner Kus, seconded by Commissioner Rehart and carried to forward the resolution to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Ms. Oberti asked that this item be placed on the regular agenda.

b) Centennial Farms

1) Farms currently on the List of Centennial Farms

a) Harlan Ranch, Riverdale (Approved by Board of Supervisors 2/15/94)

b) Schultz Ranch, Inc., Burrel (Approved by Board of Supervisors 2/15/94)

c) Charles B. Drake Ranch, Squaw Valley (Approved by Board of Supervisors 5/24/94)

- d) Richard W. and Barbara J. Milton Farm, Reedley (Approved by Board of Supervisors 1/10/95)
- e) Missouri Hill Ranch, Fresno. (Approved by Board of Supervisors 11/14/95)
- f) Reese Davis Ranch, Selma (Approved by Board of Supervisors 3/5/96)
- g) Levis Ranch, Selma (Approved by Board of Supervisors 5/17/96)
- h) John G. Goode Ranch (Approved by Board of Supervisors 1/13/98)
- i) Kreyenhagen Ranch, Coalinga (Approved by Board of Supervisors 6/29/99)

c) Centennial Businesses

- 1) Businesses currently on the List of Centennial Businesses
  - a) Fresno Ag (Approved by Board of Supervisors 7/30/02)
  - b) Baker, Manock & Jensen (Approved by Board of Supervisors 3/2/04)
  - c) Shepard, Shepard & Janian, Attorneys (Approved by Board of Supervisors 7/27/04)
- 2) 100 year old businesses that submitted an application for consideration at today's meeting
  - a) Gottschalks

Commissioner Raven commented that Mr. Gerry Blum completed the application in one day. There was no further discussion, and it was moved by Commissioner Rehart, seconded by Commissioner Raven, and carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Gottschalks be placed on the list of Centennial Businesses.

- 3) Other 100 year old businesses that received an application and have not yet responded
  - a) The Business Journal
  - b) Pacific Tent & Awning
  - c) Maxwell Studio
  - d) Simonian Farms (Clovis & Jensen, Fresno)

Commissioner Rehart has been trying to get an application from Simonian Farms. She said it will be important to verify that Simonian Farms has been continuously owned by the same family for 100 years.

- e) Electric Lab
- f) Selma, Reedley, Sanger & Kingsburg papers

d) Courthouse Park grounds markers/memorials and sculptures

- a) Update on Brochure of Courthouse Park

Mrs. Bosch Cobb is working with Ms. Roberta Barton, Mr. Erik Vartiainen, and Commissioner Rehart to finalize the brochure. Ms. Barton is working on text for the monuments. Mrs. Bosch Cobb will have another meeting with this group soon.

- b) Update on Research as of 1/12/06

**HLRC  
March 9, 2006**

**Completed**

- Brotherhood memorial to Dowling, Greenberg, Malloch – 1968 (Margaret Murphy)
- Fresno Memorial Plaque on history of County- 1954 (Bob Wash)
- Flagpole (north) Homer Blevins chap, Disabled American Veterans – 1979 (Aileen Bos)
- William Saroyan monument – 1988 (Ben Amirkhanian)
- Statue of Dr. Chester Rowell – 1914 (Prudence Zalewski)
- Virginianna Oak – Roger Taylor
- Anna Woodward Memorial Fountain – Judy Ganulin
- Flagpole (south) Dedicated to Haig Ohannesian – 1966 – Aileen Bos
- David of Sassoun, Armenian Folk Hero - 1970 – Mabelle Selland
- Bicentennial Oak - Penny Raven
- Fresno County Peace Officer's Memorial – 1999 - Penny Raven

**Pending**

- E. Clampus Vitus (original courthouse) – Randy McFarland
- Replica of Toltec sculpture given to Fresno County by the Mexican state of Hidalgo – 1980 – James Kus
- Viva Liberation – 1949 - Steve Barile
- Hmong Memorial - 2005 - Robert Anderson, City of Fresno
- Checker Board - Roger Taylor

**Unassigned**

- The Earth is a Sculpture (working fountain)
- Statue Honoring Ex Braceros 1942 – 1964 – 2002
- Statue of Benito Juarez – 2003
- Historical Society Monument
- Martin Luther King Bust

e) Discussion of threatened buildings in downtown Fresno

Commissioner Taylor described a "transportation" building that is unique because it had a dirt floor. Employees of the business had apartments upstairs. The building is boarded up and is located across the street from the Grizzly stadium on Inyo Street. He discussed this building with Ms. Karana Hattersley-Drayton City Historic Preservation Officer.

There was some discussion about the Richfield Garage (ARCO Garage) which was at one time owned by the County. The County sold it to the Fresno City and County Historical Society. The Downtown Club was going to renovate the garage to use it as a parking garage, but they have decided they cannot renovate it. This item will be kept on the agenda for future updates.

f) Discussion of threatened buildings in the County of Fresno - No discussion.

8. Sesquicentennial Activities

a) HLRC Tours - Mrs. Bosch Cobb reviewed the draft list of tours with the Commission. She is working with Commissioner Rehart to plan the Millerton tour on April 17. She reported that the Selma tour was held on February 16 with about 25-30 people participating. Chairman McFarland was an excellent tour guide, and the tour lasted about two hours.

b) Other – The Sesquicentennial book is moving along. Commissioner Rehart said the committee is meeting every other week now. Progress is being made on the film, and the actual filming is expected to begin on March 21. The film will be about an hour long and will cover the beginning of the County leading up to the creation of Fresno County. It will air on PBS locally and throughout the Valley in September.

**HLRC**  
**March 9, 2006**

Ms. Pat Hunter and Ms. Janet Steven held a book signing at City Hall last week. Commissioner Taylor reported they sold over 200 books. The paintings are in exhibit at City Hall.

9. Reports and Administrative Action Items

- a) Chairman's Report
- b) Vice-Chairman's Report
- c) Secretary's Report
  - 1) Status of Vacancies:
    - a) There are still five Commission appointed vacancies (Murphy, Selland, Herrera, Helm, Wash). Mrs. Nancy Enloe was appointed on January 24.

Applications were sent to Ms. Peggy Bos and Ms. Susan Hiigel.

- 2) State Form and our supplemental form as new application form.- Defer until joint meeting with City
- 3) Revised Bylaws - The revised bylaws were approved by Board of Supervisors on February 28, 2006.
- 4) Joint Meeting – Mrs. Bosch Cobb is still working with Ms. Karana Hattersley-Drayton on this. The best time for the City Commissioners to meet appears to be 5 p.m. because of work schedules.
- 5) County Archives - Mrs. Bosch Cobb is participating in the County's archives study. A part of this study will involve staff from the County Clerk's office going to every department to identify archives. The committee spoke to the state archivist, and they traveled to Tuolumne County to look at their archives building. Tuolumne County has been working on their preservation project for about four years and they have made a lot of progress.
- 6) Other: Mrs. Bosch Cobb gave Commissioners library pens and flyers for the events to promote The Big Read: *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- d) Commissioners' Reports - None.

10. Announcements

The next Commission tour will be at Millerton on April 17.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at the Central Library. A topic on the agenda will be posting the landmarks list on the Commission website.

11. Adjournment - There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.