



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

**March 18, 2021  
Zoom Meeting**



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**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** David Rodriguez, Sharon Darnell, Dr. Allen Carden, Dr. James Kus, Sue Loucks, Randy McFarland, Dr. Susan Pappas, Janice Stevens, Kenneth Zech, James Sponsler, Nick Yovino, Pat Hunter, and Lou Catallo.

**Members Absent:** Blake Zante, Paula Lloyd, John Houlihan, and John Baltierra.

**Staff:** Karen Coletti, Secretary

**Members of the Public:** Dr. Jerry Buckley

**1) Call to Order at 4:01 PM.** Chairman Rodriguez.

**2) Welcome & Introductions.**

A) Welcome and Introductions. Dr. Jerry Buckley, President of Reedley College joined the meeting and was introduced by Commissioner Zech.

**3) Adoption of Agenda.**

A) Adopted with amendment made to agenda to have application of Thomas Law Reed Home Ranch moved to Historic Places 6b), Zech; Second: McFarland. Passed unanimously.

**4) Approval of minutes: January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021** –Move to approve with correction on Pat Hunter, present, Stevens; Second: McFarland. Passed Unanimously.

**5) Public Comment. None.**

**6) Landmarks:**

A) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County.

i) Commissioner Pappas reported she will bring list of all 347 Board approved agenda items to the next meeting.

B) Historic Places: Discussion and Necessary Action:

i) Commissioner Yovino gave update on the Armenian Home project. Tom Richards with Penstar has officially taken over the project. Commissioner Yovino has spoken at length to Scott Anderson with Penstar. The fire of the homes was possibly started by homeless and Penstar is working on stepping up surveillance around the remaining homes with the City. Penstar is working on the DDA as they are the redeveloper. They are in negotiations with the City and State. There are some issues with the DDA and the use of the properties. There has always been interest in a mixture of uses for the homes. Penstar is putting a new plan together now, which will keep the homes that are there the same and use as office or possibly residential. Commissioner Yovino and Penstar will stay in contact and give updates on the homes. It was discussed if the homes could be relocated, and Commissioner Yovino did not have an answer on that. Commissioner Stevens ask about Vartanian home, being relocated to that site. Penstar is aware and said anything is possible and they do know about that. Commissioner Stevens reported that the Fresno Rescue Mission has \$100,000 to help on the move. Commissioner Sponsler spoke on his neighbor involved with that process and that an EIR has been requested. There are several buildings that a connected to the Vartanian home. Commission Stevens shared that Midge Barret's grandfather built the tank house. Commissioner Pappas ask Commissioner Yovino about the Armenian Town homes, and the insides, they are gutted. Commissioner Yovino reported there will be a new Master Plan in 1 to 2 years. Commissioner Yovino requested this be kept on the Agenda for updates.

ii) Commissioner Zech, presenting the Thomas Law Reed Home Ranch, the family is the Reed in Reedley. The ranch was the site where Reedley College is today. Dr. Jerry Buckley, President of Reedley College joined the meeting by phone. There are still some elements that are evidence of the Reed Family occupancy. The property along Reed Avenue and the former alignment of Manning Avenue is bounded by a series of California Fan Palms. A single Canary Island Date Palm is located in what was the front yard of the second, and last, Reed family home (built 1908) on the property. The original home had a river rock foundation. Numerous stones are still located in the orchard that now occupies the homes former site. This site is scheduled for development of a Performing Arts Complex in the next couple of years. The commission commended Commissioner Zech on an outstanding application. Motion to recommend approval for application of the Thomas Law Reed Home Ranch by Board of Supervisors. McFarland; Second: Dr. Carden. Passed Unanimously.

C) Centennial Business.

i) Discussion

- (1) Commissioner Yovino is continuing to work with Sunnyside Country Club. Steve Menchinella, manager is reviewing application. Commissioner McFarland will reach out to help Commissioner Yovino, there will be update at next meeting.
- (2) Commissioner Kus has followed up with Sunmaid Market, he has given them the commission application and information on what the commission is. We have till 2022 before they are a Centennial Business, and he will continue to follow up and bring info to commission.

D) Centennial Communities

i) Discussion

- (1) Commissioner McFarland deferred Orange Cove to Commissioner Zech who contacted the City and met with a Council Member who is working on Centennial. update will be given next meeting.

E) Centennial Farms - None.

F) Centennial Schools – None.

G) Discussion on threatened landmarks in the County of Fresno.

- (1) Commissioner Stevens reported on behalf of Commissioner Hunter, The Carnegie Library, is still pending. The group Save the Library is still actively working on it, and there is a lot of stalling from the Chamber of Commerce. We still have not sent letter of support.
- (2) Commissioner Stevens reported on behalf of Commissioner Hunter, that the Merci Boxcar now is covered. Commissioner Stevens thanked Commissioner McFarland for a great job on letter written.

H) Discussion on potential landmarks in the County of Fresno.

- (1) Commissioner Sponsler would like to pursue Edison Social Club as well as Fancher Creek Nursery. They both will be added to agenda next meeting.

I) Media Releases – None.

J) Website – None.

**7) Reports and Administrative Items.**

A) Chairman's Report – None.

B) Secretary's Report

- (1) Reappointments were covered, Karen offered assistance to anyone who needed help with application process.

(2) Everyone is in good attendance.

(3) Roster will be updated after this meeting to reflect the reappointments.

C) New Business

(1) Commissioner Sponsler would like to have a Resolution for Historic Preservation Month. Commissioner McFarland is happy to write one up. Karen will follow up with Clerk to the Board.

(2) Commissioner Kus brought up the commission and their duty to maintain records. Karen will follow up with Election's office and to see if they are available for next meeting to discuss records.

(3) Commissioner Sponsler brought up the historical maps that are stored in the basement of Public Works. Karen will follow up with Public Works.

**8) Commission Reports**

- Commissioner Kus will be back on a cruise ship in December potentially.
- Commissioner Stevens shared the Mabel Selland had passed away. She was prominent in the historic preservation of Fresno County.
- Commissioner Darnell shared through email, that she will find out what Sierra's intent is on celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Darnell has the entire history of Sierra High School that can be shared online if anyone is interested.

**9) Adjournment.** Motion to Adjourn at 5:02 PM. Catallo; Second:Loucks

Agenda Items for Next Meeting	
Armenian Homes	Yovino (May)
Sunnyside Country Club (Business)	Yovino (May)
SunMaid Market	Kus (May)
Orange Cove (Centennial Community)	McFarland / Zech (May)
Edison Social Club	Sponsler (May)
Fancher Creek Nursery (Centennial Business)	Sponsler (May)

Future Meetings		
May 13, 2021	4:00 PM	Zoom
September 9, 2021	4:00 PM	Zoom
November 11, 2021	4:00 PM	Zoom

**Requests for disability-related modification of accommodation needed in order to participate in the meeting must be made to the Commission Secretary at (559)600-6237 no later than 9:00 AM the day before the meeting.**