

## Historical Landmarks & Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held at the Fowler Branch Library on January 15, 2009.

Members present: Aileen Bos, John Baltierra, Bud Olson, Susan Pappas, Elizabeth Laval, Don Shantz, Jim Kus, Nancy Enloe, Randy McFarland, Bill Secrest, Jr. Penny Raven, Ethan Kytile, David Berkey

Members absent: Steve Barile

Others present: Bill Secrest Jr., Elida Mendoza, Lauren MacDonald, Chris Johnson, Bill Darnell, Karen Bosch Cobb

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy McFarland.
2. Welcome and Call to Order: Chairman McFarland welcomed all guests.
3. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as distributed.
4. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of January 15, 2009 were approved with one correction. The spelling of the Fig Garden Swim & *Racquet* Club was corrected.
5. Comments from the Public: None.
6. California Room Acquisitions: Mr. Bill Secrest Jr. shared historical documents and archival photos acquired from the collection of Mr. Frank F. Latta, preeminent historian of the San Joaquin Valley.
7. Records – None.
8. Report from Subcommittee on Historic Ordinance: The subcommittee met with representatives from Fresno County Public Works and Planning on January 8 to talk about the status of their efforts to establish a Historic Preservation Ordinance. There is a question as to where this process is going due to the Fresno County's budget situation. Chairman McFarland asked Public Works to keep the Commission involved as they continue to work on developing an ordinance. During their meeting the subcommittee stressed the ordinance should encourage historical preservation without creating a burden by overregulation. Commissioner Raven stated rules should only be applied to exteriors, and that they should not apply to interiors of residences.
9. Landmarks
  - a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County
    - 1) Pending Applications – John & Mathilda Nelson Home, Kingsburg  
The Nelson home was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2008.

2) Applications Under Review

- a) Hall of Records – The application was reviewed by Mr. John Powell and returned to Mr. Secrest, Jr. The next step is to forward it to Ms. Karana Hattersley-Drayton, Fresno City Historic Preservation Officer, and then send it on to the State Historic Preservation Office in Sacramento.
- b) L.C. Wesley Super Garage (Arco Garage) – Commissioners were informed that a letter was received by Mrs. Bosch Cobb signed by all of the owners of the garage in support of historic designation for the garage. There were no questions, and there was no further discussion. It was moved by Commissioner Kus, seconded by Commissioner Laval, and carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to place the L. C. Wesley Garage (Arco Garage) on the County's List of Historic Places.

3) Suggestions for other applications

- a) Sierra Sky Park – Mr. Bill Darnell reported on the status of his research to obtain historic designation for the Sierra Sky Park. As discussed in previous meetings, the National Register requirement for historic districts is that structures in the designated area must be 50 years or older, and the Sky Park does not meet this criteria because most of the construction took place after 1958. Due to this requirement, Mr. Darnell has decided not to pursue a National Register designation at this time; he is working on preparing an application to place the Sky Park on the Fresno County List of Historic Places instead. Discussion followed about the definition of a district. There are two districts on the County's List, the Squaw Leap Archaeological District and the Baker Valley Historical District. Commissioner's voiced their opinions, and Commissioner Kus said it is the concept of the Sky Park that makes it a historic district. Mr. Darnell added that the concept is unique throughout the world. The Board of Supervisors' requirement that property owners must consent to have their property placed on the List of Historic Places was discussed. They also wanted to know if this requirement applies to historic districts. Mrs. Bosch Cobb will look for the criteria for historic districts and share it with Mr. Darnell and Chairman McFarland. Mr. Johnson said that owner consent is an overriding factor. He said that there could be CEQA protections about altering features of a house even if it is not over 50 years old. Commissioner Kus noted that a unique feature of the Sky Park is the wide roads. Mr.

Johnson said road changes may be impacted by CEQA. There was no further discussion, and this matter was referred to staff for further research.

b) Inventory – No discussion.

b) Centennial Farms – None.

c) Centennial Businesses – None.

d) Centennial Communities: Two more communities will reach their centennial year in 2009. Mrs. Bosch Cobb plans to take an agenda item to the Board of Supervisors in September.

e) Courthouse Park grounds markers/memorials and sculptures – None.

f) Discussion of threatened buildings in the City of Fresno – None.

10. Reports and Administrative Action Items

a) Chairman's Report

1) Tour Planning for 2009: Commissioners reviewed the list of options discussed at the November meeting and they agreed to a field trip to the dedication of the Pinedale Assembly Center Monument on February 16, and lunch followed by a trip to the Sierra Sky Park. Mrs. Bosch Cobb will coordinate a planning meeting with Mr. Darnell, Mr. McFarland, and Mr. Secrest, Jr. Future trips were discussed, and Commissioners reconfirmed that they are interested in joining the Archeological Society on their trip to Three Rocks sometime in March. Commissioner Kus will forward information when plans are finalized. A summer trip to the Shaver/Dinkey area was the third item at the top of the list of tour destinations.

b) Vice-Chairman's Report – A written report regarding the status of the Del Rey Historic properties was distributed. Commissioner Taylor was on vacation and unable to attend the meeting.

c) Secretary's Report

1) Attendance Report: Per an ordinance of the Board of Supervisors ordinance members who miss in excess of two meetings in a calendar year are considered to have resigned. Since this was the first meeting of the year all members are in good standing.

- 2) Status of Vacancies: Mrs. Bosch Cobb received notice that Commissioners Peggy Bos and Judy Ganulin are not interested in reappointment due to other commitments. Commissioners Enloe, Aileen Bos, Raven, Olson, and Taylor have submitted applications for reappointment. An application will be sent to Ms. Janice Stevens who was suggested by Commissioner Aileen Bos for one of the vacant positions.

d) Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner Laval took up a collection and provided receipts to members interested in contributing toward the purchase of a photographic tile to support the Pop Laval Gallery's scanning project.

Commissioner Enloe plans to submit an application to place the Clovis Masonic Center on the List of Historic Places.

Three buildings in downtown Fowler have undergone façade renovations through a subsidy program offered by the City of Fowler.

Commissioner Baltierra reported that the Firebaugh City Hall is being relocated.

Commissioner Aileen Bos was happy to announce that her heart health has improved after several surgeries. On another subject, she commented about policies for archiving public records in the City and County of Fresno.

11. Announcements – The next meeting will be on March 19. The location was not set.
12. Adjournment - There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned to dinner in honor of Elida Mendoza's retirement.
13. Tour of Fowler Library – Mrs. Bosch Cobb offered a tour of the Fowler Library. The Fowler Library was previously located in a building it had occupied since it opened in 1914.