



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

September 14, 2023

4:00 PM

Betty Rodriguez Regional Library

3040 N Cedar

Fresno, CA 93702



MINUTES

Members Present: David Rodriguez, Dr. Allen Carden, James Sponsler, Lou Catallo, Randy McFarland, Dr. Susan Pappas, Dr. James Kus, Sharon Darnell, Kenneth Zech, and Nick Yovino

Members Absent: Sue Loucks, Paula Lloyd, Kevin Nehring, and Pat Hunter

Staff: Raman Bath, County Librarian, Karen Coletti, Executive Assistant, and Eric Gruver, Staff Analyst

Members of the Public: None

1) Call to Order at 4:08 PM. David Rodriguez, Chairman

2) Welcome and Introductions

- a) Introduction of Eric Gruver, Staff Analyst, by Raman Bath. Eric will be replacing Karen in time as she is starting to transition to retirement. It was requested that the commission state their last names when making a motion so Eric will become more familiar with them.

3) Adoption of Agenda.

- a) Adopted draft agenda, **McFarland; Second: Pappas. Passed Unanimously.**

4) Approval of Minutes Motion to approve minutes of May 11, 2023, **Catallo; Second: Pappas. Passed Unanimously.**

5) Public Comment

- a) Commissioner Pappas reported that Bill Secret Jr. has filled out an application to serve on the Commission. This application will be brought forward at our November 9th meeting.

6) Landmarks

- a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County.

- i) Commissioner Pappas went through handouts in packet. There is a total of 343 unduplicated landmarks. We have 328 that are 100 years or older, and 23 after 1920. There were 43 Businesses prior to Centennial Communities and 11 over 100 years old. Commissioner Pappas and Commissioner Zech are working on updating the applications that are sparse, they are adding pictures along with narrative. Some of the applications were passed around that have been amended.

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Commissioner Pappas thanked Commissioner Zech on helping with this process.

Commissioner Pappas reported that the Centennial Communities are very sparse. There are 65. Commissioner Pappas has 23 done and will continue to work on gathering information on these, along with Commissioner McFarland and Mr. Secret when he is appointed to commission.

Commissioner Pappas is working on a picture book as well as a database. Melissa Scroggins in the library Heritage Room is helping with this. What Commissioner Pappas would like to create is a book of landmarks, in a pictorial book. Commissioner Pappas has a draft and ask the Commission to review the preface page. There will need to be some corrections on some of the lists. Commissioners added some directive to change some of the abbreviations on the list. Commissioner Pappas would like to have a digital copy as well.

The markers and sculptures in Courthouse Park also need to be updated as well.

- b)** Historic Places – None
- c)** Centennial Business – None
- d)** Centennial Communities – None
- e)** Centennial Farms – None
- f)** Centennial Schools – None
- g)** Historic District – None.
- h)** Discussion on threatened landmarks in the County of Fresno
 - i)** Commissioner Pappas spoke about the Staley home in Selma on Sylvia St, it is one of the oldest homes in Selma possibly 1884 or 1885. It is in terrible shape, Commissioner Pappas has been taking pictures of the deterioration of the home since 2017. The foundation is open, the roof is open. Commissioner McFarland reported that unfortunately the City of Selma has little interest in things of historical value. Commissioner McFarland also spoke about a home that was built by a judge on Adams and Clovis Avenues that had been demolished.
- i)** Discussion on potential landmarks in the County of Fresno
 - i)** Commissioner McFarland spoke on several in Fowler. There is also Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. Part of Grant Grove is in Fresno County and a small section is in Tulare County.
- j)** Media Releases – None.
- k)** Website
 - i)** Commissioner Pappas has everything on the website updated, she had to go back and relink things. There are now 30 pictures and has added names and years to the pictures. Commissioner Pappas would like to have a presentation at November

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meeting. It was suggested that Commissioner pictures also be added and sent to Commissioner Pappas to work on this.

7) Reports and Administrative Items.

a) Chairman's Report – No update

b) Secretary's Report

i) Attendance was discussed, and Sharon Darnell absences were waived. Commission discussed clarification as to absences.

ii) Roster is up to date.

8) New Business

i) Commissioner Pappas brought forward the information on HLRC Markers. There were handouts provided and the Commission reviewed the handouts. Discussion on wording on the marker adding that it had been approved by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and the date of the approval. On the application it was noted to bold the line that the program is not related to any county ordinances and does not place any restrictions or limitations on your property. The discussion also on what type of material and Commissioner Pappas provided some costs and information. As for the application itself it was discussed to give it at the time the certificate of the application was approved by the Board of Supervisors. It would be up to the applicant to proceed with purchasing it. Commissioner Pappas is going to do some more research, and this will be brought back in November.

9) Old Business

i) It was reported that the Smith Ferry and Hotel application will now move forward as there is a Staff Analyst in place. This should be done as soon as possible, as it has been sitting since November of 2022.

ii) The Bylaws were reviewed on June 22, by Bath, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Nehring and Commissioner McFarland. The Commission went over the changes in handouts provided from old bylaws and the revisions. **Motion to send forward for approval with revisions Catallo; Second: Pappas. Passed Unanimously**

10) Commissioner Reports.

i) Chairman Rodriguez passed around binder of collection of Pinedale newspapers.

ii) Commissioner Pappas reported she is working at Washington Colony School and American Colony School.

11) Adjournment. Motion to Adjourn at 6:00 PM by McFarland; Second: Catallo.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting		
11/9/2023	Website presentation	Commissioner Pappas
11/9/2023	Follow up to Marker and Application	Commissioner Pappas

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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.