

***Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2007***

Minutes of the Huntington Park Historic Preservation Commission meeting held on November 6, 2007.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Milofsky. Present: Commissioner Michelle Sanchez, Commissioner Wally G. Shidler, Vice Chair Carolina Luna and Chairman Barry Milofsky. Absent: None. Also present: Director of Community Development Henry L. Gray, Planning Manager Gabriel Bautista, Senior Planner Eric Garcia and Recording Secretary Corinna Luevano.

Minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2007:

A motion was made by Commissioner Shidler, seconded by Commissioner Luna, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2007, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Appearances:

Present to address the Commissioners was Mrs. Ayala. Mrs. Ayala stated that she is trying to establish a business for a cyber cafe. Mrs. Ayala stated that the proposed use would require compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which includes the provision for a handicap parking space and that the site is not adequate in size to provide a handicap parking stall. Mr. Gray directed Senior Planner Eric Garcia to schedule an appointment with Mrs. Ayala to discuss the particulars of her business.

New Business:

Discussion and/or action on the design of the Chesley Park Fence:

Mr. Gray presented the modified design of the proposed fence for Chesley Park. Mr. Gray stated that the modified design was craftsman in style. Mr. Gray added that the design of the entrance and gate could be made more monumental by increasing the post sizes. The change in the entrance design would be consistent with the craftsman design of the wrought iron fence. Mr. Gray also stated that the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to improve park aesthetics, safety and security through the use of an easy to maintain material such as wrought iron.

Commissioner Shidler commented that he reviewed the history of the park and could not find the name "Chesley" in any of the records.

The Commission agreed unanimously to direct staff to apply the proposed craftsman style design to the gate and entrance. The Commission also agreed that the fence design was appropriate for the neighborhood and that the final design did not need to be presented to the Commission in the future.

Discussion and/or action of the Draft Mills Act Ordinance:

Senior Planner Eric Garcia presented an ordinance amendment that will add Mills Act provisions to the existing Historic Preservation Ordinance. The proposed amendment will modify Huntington Park Municipal Code Section 9-3.1818, by amending the parking requirements for historic resources; reducing Planning fees for historic resources; and by adding the Mills Act Property Tax Abatement Program (Mills Act Program), as an additional incentive for preserving historic resources. Mr. Garcia informed the Commissioners that the Mills Act allows owners of qualified historic properties, who actively participate in the restoration and maintenance of their historic properties, to receive property tax relief. Mr. Garcia added that the Mills Act is an economic incentive program for owners as a means to foster the preservation of residential neighborhoods and the revitalization of downtown commercial districts.

Mr. Gray provided clarification of the proposed modification to HPMC Section 9-3.1818 which would no longer place the burden on the owner to provide two covered parking spaces when adding more than 300 square feet to a single family residence that is designated as a Historic Resource. Mr. Gray also stated that the proposed HPMC Section 9-3.1818 (E) (4) (a), be amended to include that "this not only apply to endangered resources" as recommended by Chairperson Milofsky.

Present to address the Commissioners was Councilmember John Noguez. Mr. Noguez provided a thorough explanation of the benefits and workings of the Mills Act. Mr. Noguez added that although properties granted a Mills Act contract would pay less in property taxes, the City's share of the property tax was very small when compared to the county and the state, therefore the City's revenue losses would be minimal. Nonetheless, Mr. Noguez recommended that during the initiation of the program, a cap of \$50,000 be placed on the amount of property tax revenue the City would forfeit.

Discuss and/or action on the draft Request for Proposal for Historic Consultant services:

Planning Manager Gabriel Bautista informed the Commissioners that the City's 2007/2008 budget provides funding for consultant services. Mr. Bautista presented an Administrative Report to the Commissioners regarding the Request for Proposals of Historic Consultants. Mr. Bautista highlighted some of the items that staff is requiring of the Consultants:

- Community outreach
- Conducting historical surveys
- Training city staff to become independent of the Consultant

Councilmember Noguez recommended that staff utilize the service of the Los Angeles Conservancy to advertise the RFP.

Discussion and/or action of Salt Lake Avenue Eucalyptus trees:

Mr. Gray led a discussion with the Commission as to whether the eucalyptus trees along Salt Lake Avenue are part of the "El Camino Real" – a California Mission Trail stretching from San Diego to Sonoma. Mr. Gray stated that the eucalyptus trees are not part of the "El Camino Real."

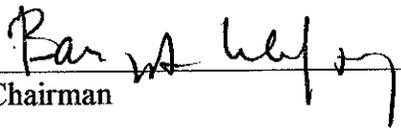
He further added that the City department responsible for tree maintenance had informed him that the trees are decayed, causing a hazard condition and should therefore be removed.

Chairman Milofsky recommended keeping the eucalyptus trees and should the trees be replaced, that they be replaced with the same type of trees. The Chairman also requested that Andy Ramirez, (Park Maintenance Supervisor) be invited to the next meeting to provide the commission with more information on the condition of the trees.

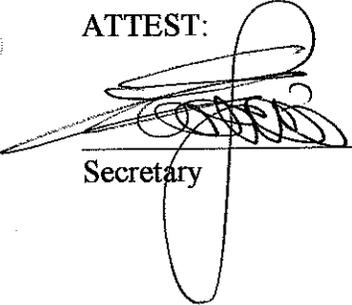
Subjects Presented by Historic Preservation Commissioners:

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairman Milofsky adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.


Chairman

ATTEST:


Secretary