

*Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2009*

Minutes of the Huntington Park Historic Preservation Commission meeting held on June 16, 2009.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Barry Milofsky. Present: Commissioners Carolina Luna, Avygail Sanchez, Wally Shidler, Vice Chair Michelle Sanchez and Chairman Milofsky. Also present: Director of Community Development Henry Gray, Development Project Coordinator Juan Arauz, Assistant Planner Gabriela Silva, Historic Preservation Intern Carli Chauvin and Recording Secretary Corinna Luevano.

Minutes of the meeting held on May 19, 2009:

A motion was made by Commissioner Shidler, seconded by Commissioner Luna, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 19, 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Appearances:

Mr. Gray introduced the new HPC Intern, Carli Chauvin.

New Business

A. Discussion and/or action on the removal of a street tree at 3415 Cudahy Street.

Mr. Gray stated that he has consulted with other cities and found that some cities take on the full expense of removing a tree while others will share the costs with the owner. Mr. Gray added that since the recent vacancy of the Director of Field Services, the Interim Acting Director, may not be as effective in obtaining a completed policy. Mr. Gray stated that the tree is not approved for removal, however, he suggested removing this item from the agenda and that staff would return with a policy on how to address these situations in the future.

B. Discussion and/or action on the Commercial Rehabilitation project located at 6707 -6709 Pacific Blvd.

Mr. Gray explained the Community Rehab program to the Commission. Mr. Arauz stated that the contractor constructed holes in the wall to observe what was inside the wall, and it revealed that it was worn down and decided that it was not practical to restore. Leonardo Corona, a contractor working on the property, stated that he is not willing to spend more than the \$50,000 grant to restore the building. Mr. Arauz added that there are restrictions on how the grant money from the Commercial Rehab program is to be spent. Mr. Gray stated that there are funds available to complete 10 projects.

Mr. Gray also stated that there is no promise of continued occupancy once the work is completed and also reminded the Commission that vacancies on Pacific Boulevard are on the rise. The Commission requested that the work maintain as much of the existing building as possible and more importantly "DO NO HARM" to the remaining original elements and that staff return to the Commission for final approval of improvements before construction is initiated. A discussion ensued however; no action was taken.

C. Discussion and/or action on the Commercial Rehabilitation project located at 7120-7124 Pacific Boulevard.

Chairman Milofsky suggested that for future reports, staff provide the historic background for projects presented to the Commission, to assist them in deciding how best to proceed.

Mr. Arauz indicated that on this property there are three stores to be demolished. Mr. Arauz foresees a problem with the owners request for scissor gates. However, Mr. Arauz stated that it would be simpler financially and practical because of the stores front angle. Chairman Milofsky requested the architect to view the stores with roll-up doors in the city of Los Angeles. Mr. Gray stated that no solid nor scissor gates will be an option for this property. Chairman Milofsky suggested interior grille gates. Chairman Milofsky requested staff to continue in their research.

The Commission requested that the work maintain as much of the existing building as possible and more importantly "DO NO HARM" to the remaining original elements and that staff return to the Commission for final approval of improvements before construction is initiated. A discussion ensued however; no action was taken.

D. Discussion and/or action on the Commercial Façade improvement at 6207 Pacific Boulevard.

Present to address the Commission were Ersel Shakibkoo, property owner and his Architect, Richard Williams, 6001 Whitworth Drive, Los Angeles, California 90019.

Mr. Gray requested that Mr. Shakibkoo remove the metal on the building to see what was beneath the metal. Mr. Gray stated that it revealed brick and plywood, along with earthquake retro beams and wall board.

Mr. Shakibkoo stated that he has been a business owner in Huntington Park for 25 years. Mr. Shakibkoo distributed his plans to the Commission. Mr. Shakibkoo stated that he desires to beautify his property. Mr. Shakibkoo added that Pacific Boulevard has many vacancies and that he would like to occupy his buildings with different types of businesses other than the standard shoes and clothing stores that occupy most of the stores along the Boulevard.

Chairman Milofsky stated that he would like staff to maintain the original character of Pacific Boulevard. The Commission directed staff to recommend to the City Council that Mr. Shakibkoo's project be selected for the Commercial Rehab loan program.

E. Discussion and/or action on the City's Street Tree Survey.

Historic Preservation Intern Carli Chauvin reviewed the past survey with the Commission. Chairman Milofsky wishes to have the survey completed over the entire City. Chairman Milofsky suggested to prepare a Google map of the area so that staff will have a more clear direction for tree removals and so that these type of requests will not have to come before the Historic Preservation Commission in the future.

Subjects Presented by Historic Preservation Commissioners

Commissioners A. Sanchez and M. Sanchez both stated that they would like to see the California Preservation Foundation sponsor a workshop for Huntington Park to educate the residents regarding historic preservation and its importance. They also requested staff to help secure a location for the workshop.

Ms. Silva stated that a letter was sent regarding the Census Kick-off for June 23rd 10:30 am and invited the Commissioners to attend.

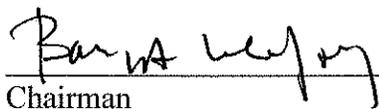
Chairman Milofsky inquired if the City is applying for Stimulus funds. Mr. Gray replied that the City is contracted with a legislative advocate who searches for various funding and presents them to each City Department.

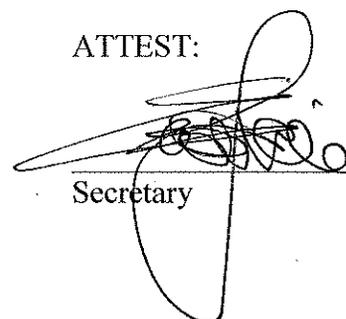
Information Items

- A. Status of the Mills Act/ Public Awareness Campaign/ Certified Local Government: Mr. Gray stated that staff is expecting draft materials from Saffos by the end of June. Mr. Gray informed the Commission that he explained to the Consultant that if the draft is not completed by Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the funds will not be available until Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Milofsky adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m. to the regular meeting of July 21, 2009.


Chairman

ATTEST:

Secretary