



Minutes

SUNNYVALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.

West Conference Room, Sunnyvale City Hall
456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jeanine Stanek; Vice Chair Nancy McDonough; Comm. Frenchie Marsolais; Comm. David Squellati; and Comm. Nirmala Vaidyanathan

Absent: Comm. Amrit Verma

Staff: Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner; Joey Mariano, Recording Secretary.

Comm. Vaidyanathan made a motion to excuse Comm. Verma's absence, since she was notified prior to the meeting of her illness. Chair Stanek seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

A) Approval of the Draft August 6, 2008 Minutes

Chair Stanek made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 6, 2008 with minor modifications. Comm. Vaidyanathan seconded. Motion carried 5 – 0 with Comm. Verma absent.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

None

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Discussion of Potential Study Issues for 2009

Mr. Kuchenig presented the discussion. He handed out an outline of the study issue process.

Comm. Squellati asked staff if the Commission ranks all of the study issues, or just those from this Commission. Mr. Kuchenig replied that the Commission would only rank their study issues.

Mr. Kuchenig further clarified the study issue process and their options. He noted that they will be meeting again in late spring to consider the Heritage District Study Issue, as it is part of the current workload to be considered. He further discussed the study issue process.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the Heritage Preservation Sub-Element contains ideas for study issues.

Chair Stanek noted that she had spoken to former Planning Commissioner Laura Babcock. She noted that Ms. Babcock attended a heritage conference describing "Buildings of Character", as buildings designed by a particular architect recognizing a type of area or neighborhood. She noted that Ms. Babcock pointed out buildings located near Downtown which may retain a certain character. Chair Stanek noted that a special type of designation could be created to identify these types of buildings and that this may be a study issue.

Chair Stanek further noted research she has found regarding areas of special character, which were designated a heritage resource, was in Vancouver, Canada, in which the homes were able to get grants for heritage designation.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that this idea can be researched. He noted that the City Council also considers the budget aspect of each proposed study issue as part of the approval process.

Chair Stanek also noted that there may be homes in Sunnyvale that are turning 50 years old which may now be designated.

Comm. Vaidyanathan asked staff about the current Heritage list.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the list is currently being updated by Planning staff interns.

Vice Chair McDonough noted some homes across the railroad tracks that look historically significant, but is not sure if they are acceptable structures to be preserved for their age.

Chair Stanek noted that she has been asked about the Heritage Resource and Landmark list, and she has pointed them to the City website. She asked staff to confirm that this list is on the Heritage Preservation Commission website page.

Chair Stanek also noted that she has seen a number of homes that are being demolished and rebuilt.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that there are current controls, such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and a review process detailed by the Municipal Code that city staff must follow to keep track of single family home projects which involve demolition.

Comm. Stanek noted that Eichler homes are reaching 50 years and are now being considered historic.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the Eichler Design Guidelines are being studied by staff through the ongoing Heritage District study issue.

Chair Stanek concurred that through last year's Heritage District study issue, it was found that guidelines may be a good tool in keeping the Eichler homes preserved.

Chair Stanek further noted that the Onizuka report is a perfect example of the need for training.

Comm. Squellati noted his understanding for the Onizuka study and that they were making a recommendation to City Council, in which Council ultimately had the final decision.

Mr. Kuchenig concurred with Comm. Squellati and noted that City Council relies on their recommendations, as they have a focused work plan regarding historic preservation in the City.

Comm. Marsolais asked staff if they are responsible for mitigation regarding items that go to this Commission.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that their recommendations and decisions get forwarded to the City Council.

Comm. Squellati noted that that this Commission is seen by the public as a governing body with not much work. Chair Stanek agreed and noted that she would like to see this Commission to be as active as it was years ago.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the Commission had two study issues last year, and that alone is a success.

Chair Stanek noted that the Sunnyvale Historical Society Museum Team will be recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer Group of the year at the State of the City event on September 13. She also reported that the Grand Opening for Heritage Park Museum is September 27 from 12-4. Flyers for the Opening were distributed to those present.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the National Trust of Historic Preservation is asking for donations. He handed out a letter from the national Trust asking for donations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner