



Final Minutes

SUNNYVALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 6, 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; Comm. Nirmala Vaidyanathan; Comm. Amrit Verma

Absent: None

Staff: Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner; Steve Lynch, Senior Planner; and Joey Mariano, Recording Secretary.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christina Schwartz, Sunnyvale Sun, noted that she is a public member present for the Onizuka Study.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A) Approval of the Draft July 2, 2008 Minutes

Comm. Fussell made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 2, 2008 with minor modifications. Comm. Vaidyanathan seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

A) Preliminary assessment of the local historic significance of Onizuka Air Force Station.

Steve Lynch, Project Planner, with City consultants Bob Switzer, Ron Golem, and Frederick Knapp summarized the Onizuka Report. He noted that the report focuses on the local historic significance. He noted that this Commission is to review the report and determine if Onizuka is historically significant and to make recommendations to the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), which is the City Council.

Comm. Vaidyanathan asked the 3-acre easement is for. Mr. Lynch responded and clarified with Mr. Switzer that the easement was for the VTA (Valley Transportation Authority), which runs a light rail transit line through the property.

Comm. Squellati asked about the satellites and their future. Mr. Lynch noted that it has not been confirmed what the government will do with the satellite dishes.

Chair Stanek noted that the previous Onizuka study report noted some art work, and asked if there were any plans on saving the art.

Mr. Switzer replied that he will check on the plans for the artwork, along with the use of the antennas. He noted that the vendors are the owners of the antennas, which are not public property. He noted that he will make an effort to communicate this inquiry to the US Government. He also stated that the antenna is not classified as Air Force property.

Mr. Lynch noted that the Commission could focus on the preservation of any historic artifacts.

Ms. Schwartz, reporter for the Sunnyvale Sun, asked the Commission what will happen to the Blue Cube if it does becomes a local landmark.

Mr. Lynch noted that tonight's determination is to only determine if the entire base has local historic significance.

Comm. Squellati clarified with staff with the Commission's role for this report.

Chair Stanek noted that the Onizuka Base is of local historic significance and that preservation is needed to commemorate this.

Comm. Vaidyanathan moved for alternative 1 of the study report. Comm. Squellati seconded. Comm. Fussell made a friendly amendment to add that artifacts are to also be evaluated as well. Comm. Vaidyanathan agreed to the friendly amendment. Comm. Squellati asked for clarification regarding whether the building is considered an artifact. Comm. Fussell confirmed for Alternative 1 to read as follows:

The Heritage Preservation Commission recommends to the LRA to acknowledge that the Onizuka AFS site is eligible for potential designation as a local Heritage Resource under the Sunnyvale Municipal Code. The LRA's Reuse Plan to the DOD should include a recommendation to further evaluate the historic significance of the buildings, *artifacts*, and site and possible preservation of a building, artifact, or other appropriate measure to commemorate the site's heritage significance.

Motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Switzer noted that October 28 and November 25 are the City Council dates for this item.

Chair Stanek asked if this Commission's next meeting will be regarding study issues.

Mr. Kuchenig responded that the September 3rd meeting will be a discussion of the study issue and the October 1st meeting will be for ranking of the study issues.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Chair Stanek noted that the current Sunnyvale Sun included an article about the Onizuka Air Force base to be considered for an auto mall, hotel, or office use.

Comm. Fussell noted that the base had important significance during the space program.

Chair Stanek noted that she plans to attend the City Council meetings regarding the Base closure.

Comm. Squellati noted that the whole area, and not just the base is historically significant, and that something needs to be preserved to commemorate this.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stanek wished Comm. Fussell farewell as this is her last meeting as a Commissioner.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that he is following up with the Hendy Museum, as part of the inquiry on the last meeting for having the museum as a Study Issue.

Chair Stanek noted that the Historical Society was invited to participate in the study about the Hendy Museum but declined due to major focus on completing Heritage Park Museum.

Chair Stanek noted that September 27 is the Grand Opening of the Heritage Park Museum, There will be a ribbon cutting event to formalize the opening with the Mayor and City Council in attendance. She further noted that the Museum is free admission and parking.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner