



## APPROVED MINUTES

### SUNNYVALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

*Wednesday, July 7, 2010 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. Nirmala Vaidyanathan; Comm. Ted Ringel; Comm. Amrit Verma

Absent: Comm. David Squellati (Excused)

**Vice Chair McDonough** announced that Comm. Squellati notified her of his planned absence.

**Commission voted 6 - 0 to excuse Comm. Squellati.**

Staff: Suzanne Ise, Housing Officer; Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner; Joey Mariano, Recording Secretary

#### SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

#### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of June 2, 2010 Draft Minutes

**Comm. Vaidyanathan** asked staff to avoid redundancy with the use of certain words.

**Comm. Made a motion to approve the June 2, 2010 Draft Minutes. Vice Chair Mc Donough seconded. Motion carried 6-0 with Comm. Squellati absent.**

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

None

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **A. Murphy Avenue Facade/Rehabilitation Program**

**Susan Ise**, Housing Officer, explained that this is a pilot program to rehabilitate the façade of the buildings on South Murphy Avenue. She stated that, since the South Murphy Ave. streetscape improvement has been completed, the buildings along the street can also use some improvements. She noted that minor façade improvements could be explored. For example, if an awning is worn or faded, some funds may be available to restore or replace it. The grant could also be used to repaint some buildings that need it.

**Comm. Vaidyanathan** asked who will decide which businesses will be receiving the funding. Ms. Ise noted that the property owner or tenant will have to take the initiative of receiving a grant, and that staff can identify what areas need the most improvements.

**Comm. Ringel** asked Ms. Ise if the grant is dollar for dollar. Ms. Ise confirmed that the owner will have to match the funds they will receive.

**Ms. Ise** noted that \$127,000 is budgeted for this rehabilitation program.

**Vice Chair McDonough** asked staff how long the funding will be available. Ms. Ise replied that this program is for one year and further explained the CDBG program.

**Comm. Ringel** asked staff if there will be a timeline or guidelines provided. Ms. Ise noted that the program is approved, and that the Commission can provide any comments or suggestions. She noted that if an improvement involves approval by this Commission, they will still have to get the applicable permit. She further stated that if the plan is only to repaint a façade the same color, there may not be a need for approval from this Commission for such improvements.

**Mr. Kuchenig** restated that the role of the Heritage Preservation Commission would be to review any improvements that necessitate their approval by Code.

**Comm. Ringel** asked staff if all the funding pertains only to Historic South Murphy Avenue.

**Ms. Ise** replied that there is a possibility that non-heritage resources or other properties could apply around the City. She mentioned that a map of the eligible locations is on the City's Website.

**Ms. Ise** further noted Department of Public Safety's NEAT (Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team) conducted a survey that concluded neighborhood businesses were not as interested as they are convenience based. Those particular neighborhood services are needed regardless of the improvements. She further explained the CDBG requirements and how the funding is determined.

**Comm. Ringel** asked if there is a deadline for the grant to be used. Ms. Ise replied one year is given. He further stated that small improvements, such as paint and planters, can make a big difference on South Murphy Avenue.

**Chair Stanek** asked staff if the program can also rehabilitate the rear façades of South Murphy Avenue. She noted that the east side has been previously improved from its original construction; however, the west side can use some assistance. She also stated that the two breezeways on S. Murphy Avenue, the rear part of the building behind Thai Basil, and the tobacco store's awning all need improvement. She asked staff to encourage the owners of these areas to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Ms. Ise** noted Chair Stanek's comments. She further explained that no structural work can be done with these funds; however, if the owner funds the structural work, this grant may be able to cover other improvements.

**Comm. Ringel** stated that the two breezeways on S. Murphy Ave. are a public safety issue, as the walkways have poor lighting. Mr. Kuchenig said that he will confirm who is responsible for these two breezeways.

**Chair Stanek** asked if they will get a chance to look at the guidelines once completed. Ms. Ise replied that the program has been approved by the Housing Commission as well as City Council, but she can forward the guidelines to this Commission for information.

**Ms. Ise** noted that the Commission can submit a memorandum of suggestions to the Housing Commission and City Council.

**Comm. Ringel** asked if the Department of Public Safety is involved in this. Ms. Ise restated that NEAT, which is under that department, is active with this program.

## **B. General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Update**

**Mr. Kuchenig** noted that this item was intended for Comm. Squellati to update the Commission on the status of the General Plan Advisory Committee. There will be a working session to learn more about the General Plan on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at the

Senior Center and a meeting on July 29, 2010. An update can be given at the next Heritage Preservation Commission meeting.

### **C. Discussion of Potential Study Issues for 2011**

**Mr. Kuchenig** stated that this was put on the agenda as a starting point to gather ideas of any potential study issues for the Commission.

**Comm. Ringel** asked if the Historical Museum is on the Heritage Resource list. Mr. Kuchenig noted that it is not.

**Chair Stanek** also responded that the Historical Museum is not a Heritage Resource because it is a newer building. She wanted to explore the idea of placing Heritage Park on the resource list as a potential study issue.

**Comm. Ringel** stated that Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer, noted that some city parks may be a potential heritage resource for the City. He further discussed Sunken Gardens as a candidate.

**The Commission** discussed different ideas, such as the smaller orchards, city parks, and other areas that may have historical significance.

**Chair Stanek** requested that the Commission start brainstorming and they can gather their ideas for the next meeting.

**Comm. Ringel** asked Chair Stanek if they can recommend a study issue regarding closing vehicle traffic on South Murphy Avenue. Mr. Kuchenig replied that he will check if that can be a possible study, even if it is not in this Commission's purview.

**Chair Stanek** asked staff to write up a proposal for closing South Murphy Avenue to vehicles as a study issue if it is possible for this Commission to consider.

### **D. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

**Chair Stanek** noted that she was happy to serve the last two years as the Chair; however, she would like to have another Commissioner have the opportunity to serve.

**Vice Chair McDonough** noted that she has no interest in serving as Chair nor Vice Chair.

**Vice Chair McDonough made a motion to move this item to the August 4 meeting. Comm. Comm. Vaidyanathan seconded.**

**Chair Stanek** expressed concern that policy may not allow her to serve as the Chair for more than two years. Mr. Kuchenig stated that the item can be placed first on the

agenda, and that the new Chair can serve for that meeting. Staff responded that no such policy exists for the commission limiting terms of chair and vice chair.

**Motion carried 6-0 with Comm. Squellati absent.**

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

**Chair Stanek** handed out a flyer, and announced that artifacts from the Libby Cannery will be displayed at the Heritage Museum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner**

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