



**APPROVED MINUTES
SUNNYVALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.
West Conference Room, Sunnyvale City Hall
456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086**

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jeanine Stanek; Vice Chair David Squellati; Comm. Dale Mouritsen; Comm. Mark Johnson; Comm. Nirmala Vaidyanathan

Absent: Comm. Amrit Verma (excused)

Staff Present: Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner; Diana O'Dell, Senior Planner; Joey Mariano, Recording Secretary

Council Liaison: Jim Griffith

Members of the Public: Deborah Marks

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of August 1, 2012

Comm. Vaidyanathan recommended grammatical changes on page two.

Vice Chair Squellati made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 1, 2012. Comm. Mouritsen seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with Comm. Vaidyanathan abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deborah Marks, member of the public, spoke regarding the property at 221 North Mathilda Avenue (Mello's Nursery). She noted that the owner is planning to sell the property and is concerned that the new owner will demolish the home.

Mr. Kuchenig pointed out that the nursery is currently on the Heritage Resource List, and that demolition and/or redevelopment of the property could not occur until a historic evaluation and a public hearing with this Commission is held.

Comm. Mouritsen asked if there is anything documented regarding the home at Mello's Nursery.

Chair Stanek replied that the home is featured in the book, "Images, Sunnyvale's Heritage Resources" prepared by the California History Center, De Anza College. She also stated that the home is on the City's Heritage Resource list.

Chair Stanek noted that any property on the Heritage Resource Inventory that is to be modified or demolished must ask for approval by this Commission.

Mrs. Marks asked if there are any resources or available funding accessible for the owner to maintain the property.

Diana O'Dell, Senior Planner noted that the City can work with the owners by referring any possible grants and other financial assistance that may be available.

Comm. Johnson asked if the homeowner can remove the property from the Heritage Resource list.

Chair Stanek restated that the owner cannot demolish the house until a comprehensive study is completed by vote by this Commission to determine whether it can be modified or demolished.

Mr. Kuchenig mentioned that the Department of Public Safety's Neighborhood Preservation Division would be notified of any enforcement issue and to resolve property maintenance violations.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. FILE #: 2012-7115
Location: City Wide
Study Issue: **Cultural Heritage of Sunnyvale:** A study researching cultural heritage of Sunnyvale to establish an ongoing program that collects further history and information.
Staff Contact: Diana O'Dell, 408-730-7257, dodell@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

Ms. O'Dell summarized her report and noted three objectives; to accept a Context Statement that publishes known research of Sunnyvale history, acknowledge the newly-launched Sunnyvale History website www.History.InSunnyvale.com that aggregates links to books, podcasts, videos and other resources on Sunnyvale's history and cultural richness, and direct staff and the Heritage Preservation Commission to continue to make a special effort to reach out to cultural and ethnic groups for the ongoing Sunnyvale Voices digital history program.

Ms. O'Dell noted that public outreach was conducted to retrieve feedback from non-European cultures in the City. She noted that the Public Library has many resources that are already available. She also said that the Library is accepting digital stories.

Comm. Vaidyanathan asked Chair Stanek regarding page 28 of the Context Statement, and asked if she meant page 29. Chair Stanek affirmed.

Chair Stanek noted that the actual name of the school known as "Encinal" was Encina, and the City was once named Encinal. She also noted that the actual spelling of Libby McNeil is "McNeill". She also recommended another clarification that there is no solid evidence that the

Murphy Home was from Bangor, Maine; and other literature states that the home is from New England.

Comm. Mouritsen asked if there are any Murphy descendants.

Vice Chair Squellati noted that Anne Joy has recently passed; however, her relative resides in the Central Valley.

Chair Stanek noted that Allan Roundtree, a volunteer at the [Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum](#), has been conducting research through [www.ancestry.com](#) to try to find relatives of the Murphy family.

Comm. Mouritsen asked who put the Context Statement together. Mrs. O'Dell replied that it was put together from various sources.

Comm. Johnson asked about page 3 of 41 of the Context Statement. Ms. O'Dell clarified.

Comm. Johnson commented on several pages of the context statement, and stated that he is generally not satisfied. He expressed concern regarding the lack of discussion of ethnic cultures within the statement. He noted that his initial objective of bringing up this study was to capture the various cultures in Sunnyvale.

Ms. O'Dell agreed with Comm. Johnson, and noted that a challenge in preparing this context statement was finding written documentation of other ethnic cultures specific to Sunnyvale. She mentioned that Mary Jo Ignoffo's book regarded Asian farmers working in the fields, but could not find any specific references.

Comm. Johnson agreed, and stated that this is one of the reasons why he had introduced the study. He had hopes to document more of these groups.

Chair Stanek noted that she learned of a person in an early census who was from France, married a man from Mexico, but the census did not document her ethnicity.

Ms. O'Dell re-affirmed that it was difficult to find documented information from non-European cultures, and mentioned that the Context Statement is a starting point for other ethnic cultures in Sunnyvale to be recognized as we find information. She also said that the digital stories and other tools for recording other groups are also available.

Comm. Johnson asked if Ms. O'Dell was able to gather information pertaining to Costanoan Indians in Sunnyvale.

Chair Stanek noted Lupe Yñigo, one of the few Native Americans to hold a Mexican land grant, established his home in Rancho Posolmi, present day Moffett Air Field Base.

Comm. Vaidyanathan noted the remains of an American Indian descendent in the area of CA Hwy 237 and US Hwy 101 was found by a team of scientists from Santa Clara University.

Comm. Johnson noted that Vice Mayor Whittum previously stated that there may be other findings of American Indian remains; however, such information is not available to the general public.

Chair Stanek noted her experience with creating digital stories, and that it was difficult to speak in front of a camera while someone is asking you questions.

Mrs. O'Dell noted that the City conducted oral histories in the form of an interview, which are available at the library.

Comm. Johnson said he liked the aspects noted in the report, but such information did not get into the Context Statement.

Ms. O'Dell noted that the Context Statement is based on events and structures.

Comm. Johnson stated that the Context Statement did not include the cultural diversity he intended to include when he endorsed the study issue.

Vice Chair Squellati noted that the report mentions information about other ethnic groups gathered from the digital books; however, it should also be included in the Context Statement.

Comm. Vaidyanathan questioned staff about the alternatives in the report, and asked for clarification.

Ms. O'Dell commented that the Commission can make any recommendations they may find necessary.

Council Liaison Griffith stated that they are the primary Commission for this study issue, and City Council will be looking for direction from them. He also stated that the Context Statement is a living document and it does not have to be finalized and approved at this time. He reiterated that their comments and recommendations are more important.

Comm. Johnson noted that he is not content with the Context Statement, and he asked staff to include the non-European diversity within Sunnyvale. He stated that he cannot approve the statement until then.

Chair Stanek asked the Commission for any motions.

ACTION: Vice Chair Squellati made a motion on 2012-7115 for Alternative 2 with modifications: Direct staff to take additional action to document and publicize the cultural and ethnic history aspect to the Context Statement, the www.history.inSunnyvale.com website, and to add more ethnic cultures to the digital books program. Comm. Mouritsen seconded

Chair Stanek asked Comm. Johnson if the motion was acceptable to him.

Comm. Johnson noted he is in agreement with Vice Chair Squellati's motion.

Ms. O'Dell noted some examples of motions they can make. She summarized the steps she will take and how it will be presented to the City Council on October 2, 2012.

Comm. Johnson clarified the motion.

Council Liaison Griffith announced to the Commission that their attendance at the City Council meeting for this item may be valuable as the City Council may ask for clarification.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0 with Comm. Verma absent.

Chair Stanek directed staff to send the e-notification link on the City web site to the Commission, so that they can receive notice of the City Council agenda.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that this item will be brought to the City Council on October 2, 2012.

3. Discussion of Potential Study Issues for 2013

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the last meeting included this discussion, and that he will be circulating those ideas to the Commission in written form. He further discussed last year's study issues and possible new studies related to heritage trees, and the downtown area for heritage resources. He then noted the calendar dates for the consideration of the study issues by the Commission and City Council.

Comm. Johnson noted that he did not agree with the previous wording to last year's study issue CDD 12-04, Recognition of the Technological Events and Innovations of Sunnyvale. He stated that he would like to re-read the study and re-introduce a revision.

Council Liaison Griffith said that he is not clear of how much change is needed for the City Council to co-sponsor a study issue that was previously dropped.

Vice Chair Squellati requested that staff consider exploration of financial assistance to existing heritage resources.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- BOARD MEMBERS OR COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS
- *STAFF ORAL COMMENTS*

Comm. Johnson noted that the Centennial Celebration was a considerable effort by many people. One vendor commented that he appreciated the friendly and family style atmosphere where no alcoholic beverages were available.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that there is no Commission meeting in October.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

Council Liaison Griffith summarized Council's action regarding the sale of the homes on Jackson Street and the authorization of staff to work with Habitat for Humanity to buy the homes from the City.

Council Liaison Griffith also noted an upcoming Council agenda item regarding a bike lane connection from Evelyn Avenue to El Camino Real through Pastoria Avenue. City Council ultimately decided to investigate further a route that goes on to Charles Street from Olive Avenue. It was mentioned because the houses in Charles Street 100 have some heritage significance

Ryan Kuchenig noted the upcoming Planning Open House outreach meeting which discusses current study issues being undertaken by Planning Division staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner