

MINUTES
ALAMEDA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Thursday, August 2, 2007
East Bay Regional Park District,
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA
(Approved October 4, 2007)

I. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Commissioner Sadoff, Chair.

Commissioners Present:

Annalee Allen
Marie Cronin
James Loughran
David Sadoff
Julie Machado
Harry Francis
Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson
David Tam
MaryAnn McMillan
Dennis Waespi
David Furst
Al Minard

Commissioners Excused:

Stephen Sanger

Guests:

Mike Kaelin
James Swofford
Matt Davis

Staff Present:

Cindy Horvath
Nilma Singh

- II. APPROVAL of May 3rd and July 5th MINUTES** – Commissioner Minard pointed out that he was absent at the July 5th Meeting. Commissioner Loughran made the motion to approve the July 5th Minutes with the above correction and Commissioner Minard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Loughran made the motion to approve May 3rd Minutes as submitted and Commissioner Furst seconded, which carried unanimously.

- III. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM** - James Swofford, on behalf of the Curator of the Niles Canyon Heritage Railway Museum, explained that the museum has been selected in the top 30 percentile for the CCHE Grant and on August 22nd the organization will appear before the CCHE (California Cultural & Heritage Endowment) Commission with letters in support of their project. The project is the redevelopment of the Niles Town Square, the feasibility of construction on County property that is licensed to the Museum. The planning work is specifically for a museum building and historically recreated boarding facilities to be the primary gateway for the Niles Canyon Heritage Railway. In 2001, this Commission had reviewed the Railroad Master Plan and written a letter in support. Any comment, guidance and/or endorsement from this Commission will be appreciated. Commissioner Sadoff pointed out that a formal action cannot be taken as the matter is not agendaized but only under Open Forum. Commissioner Furst agreed adding that he had legality concerns. Commissioner

Sadoff requested staff to confirm with County Counsel and, if permissible, staff will draft a letter in support; and for Mr. Swofford to submit any related materials to staff.

IV. CHAIR and STAFF REPORT(S): These items include information and discussion by the Commission:

A. CHAIR REPORT – No report.

B. STAFF REPORT – Ms. Horvath announced that Mr. Amoroso is retiring from the County and a new Commission staff will be in attendance at the September meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS – All old business will include information, discussion and/or action by the Commission.

A. Continued review of the draft HP ordinance (see attachments) – discussion - Matt Davis, Carey & Company. Mr. Davis noted the two packages, the Draft Ordinance dated 6/20/07 in error (should have read 8/2/07) which includes the minor modifications as discussed at the last meeting and the Key Decision Points, including a sheet on Decisions made at the July 5th meeting, which is for discussion today.

In reference to #2 on the sheet, Commissioner Minard felt that all historic properties in the entire county should be on a County resource list, perhaps a Master List. Commissioner Sadoff pointed out that the County only has jurisdiction over the unincorporated areas. Mr. Davis agreed adding that perhaps upon the completion of the HP Ordinance. A discussion followed regarding the inclusion of County buildings within the City; the importance of a master inventory and the HP Ordinance; Structures of merit, and Planning Department process. Commissioner Minard stressed the importance of having all historical buildings on at least one register and thought that obtaining owners' consent would be correct. The consensus was to remain with the Consultant's recommendation and the Chair added that the Commissioners check with their Supervisors also.

Mr. Davis summarized #1 on the Key Decision Points sheet. The Commission agreed unanimously that language be inserted in the Ordinance to allow this Commission review of potential historical resources. Mr. Davis indicated that the easiest way to accomplish this would be to institute Structures of Merit. The Register would include both the local landmarks and historical districts, Structures of Merit, Conservation areas; and also include language to allow the Commission to designate conservation areas in future. In response to Commissioner Minard, the word 'county' on page 10, B, line 1 be changed to 'County' and define 'County' (page 5) as unincorporated area. A discussion ensued regarding historic sites in the cities. Commissioner Sadoff expressed his concerns regarding the legality of including properties from other jurisdictions and recommended checking with County Counsel. Commissioner Machado added that a check be made with Carolyn Douthat also.

#4—Stays of Demolition. At the recommendation of Commissioner Minard, the Commission agreed unanimously on the maximum 180 days to find alternative sites.

Regarding #5, Commissioner Minard recommended the removal of the option of any money factor. However, Commissioner Machado felt that having a fund would allow the Commission to pursue some of the Commission goals and Commissioner Sadoff agreed on the importance of such a fund but perhaps based on project by project basis.

Commissioner Minard, in reference to #3, discussed the importance of the word 'should' instead of 'must' adding that the view of the building from the public right-of-way needs to be consistent before and after renovation. A discussion followed regarding a separate set of conditions, cross-referenced in the ordinance, as recommended by Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis added that he could provide examples and pictures from other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Machado stated that the Subcommittee's preliminary report on the DPRs (45 items along with the consultant's list of 30; three over-lapping) needs to be refined. Some of the items on previous inventories are not reflected in the Comprehensive Inventory (pages 4-5) and she further discussed the importance of 'pluses'. Commissioner Sadoff recommended agendizing the matter for discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner McMillan requested that the statements under the Historical Context on each area be of similar length. A discussion followed regarding the Context Statement and Mr. Davis pointed out that the Statement was not included in the contract. The Chair requested staff to provide a copy of the contract to the Subcommittee and since discussions had occurred previously, Commission Allen suggested looking at prior minutes also.

In conclusion, Mr. Davis stated that he will have a revised draft ordinance at the next meeting, look at the DPR list and contact the Subcommittee if questions.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – All new business will include information, discussion and/or action by the Commission.

A. PETITION FOR HISTORIC/SCENIC PRESERVATION OF ALTAMONT, CA. – presented by Mike Kaelin, Lincoln Highway Association (see attachment). Mr. Kaelin, representing the Lincoln Highway Association, California Chapter, described briefly the history of Altamont, the proposed sign specifications and distributed copies of his memo to staff dated July 22nd. A website, www.lincolnhighway.com is also available for additional information. The Association is looking for a support letter from this Commission to be forwarded to the State Historic Resources Commission within 90 days. Support is being requested for signs along Altamont Pass Road which reads "Historic Lincoln Highway" and "Historic Town of Altamont; and since the garage owner is not interested in historic designation, that portion of the proposal has been deleted. Commissioner Allen suggested a support letter for the on-going research relating to the recognition of Lincoln Highway. Ms. Horvath explained that there is a difference between State Scenic Highway status, National Heritage Corridor and Historic Designation. Commissioner Tam stated that he would email particulars on a 1947 movie (Thieves' Highway) situated on the Altamont Pass and Commission Allen will email information/resource available with City of Oakland. In response to Commissioner Minard, Mr. Kaelin indicated that the Association will pay for some of the signs not located in the right-of-way or on County-maintained roads. Commissioner Allen made a motion to support the efforts of the Lincoln Highway Association to document the Lincoln Highway through Alameda County, specifically in the Altamont Pass area, and its historic designation. Commissioner McMillan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – Commissioners will report on areas of concern and/or informational items concerning parks, recreation and historical preservation issues within the supervisory districts they serve.

- A. **District 1: Haggerty** - Commissioners Minard announced that WCABT will be holding a testing demonstration on the cleaning system from 4-6pm on Thursday, August 9th at Public Health Service Hospital.
- B. **District 2: Steele** - No report.
- C. **District 3: Lai-Bitker** - No report.
- D. **District 4: Miley** - Commissioners Sadoff announced that the Alcorn chicken ranch was demolished last week.
- E. **District 5: Carson** - Commissioners Tam distributed copies of the Greenbelt Alliance summer flier noting the article on the last page.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. **Agenda Items for future meetings**

X. ADJOURNMENT

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, Commissioner Sadoff made the motion to adjourn in recognition of the fine work by Alex Amoroso and Commissioner McMillan seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.