

MINUTES
ALAMEDA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Thursday, September 3, 2009
Dunsmuir-Hellman Historic Estate
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA
(Approved October 1, 2009)

2:30 PM – Tour of the estate grounds to be led by Mr. Jim DeMersman, Executive Director of the Dunsmuir-Hellman Historic Estate. He also provided a brief history and background information, and explained the rental and tour procedures,

I. Call to Order – Roll Call

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

Commissioners Present:

Annalee Allen
Al Minard
James Loughran
David Sadoff
Kevin Liebig
Harry Francis
Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson
Dennis Waespi
MaryAnn McMillan

Commissioners Excused:

Marie Cronin
David Tam
Stephen Sanger
Samuel Kang

Guests:

Staff Present:

Liz McElligott
Angela Robinson-Pinõn
Nilma Singh

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 6TH MINUTES - The Chair made a correction on his report under Commissioner Report that the Patterson Ranch did have sprinklers but the sprinkler heads have been recalled and they have not been replaced; and Commissioner Allen made a correction of the firm name, Architectural Resources Group on page 3 under Meek Estate. *Commissioner Allen made the motion to approve the August 6th Minutes as modified and Commissioner Francis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

III. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM - Any member of the public may address the Commission on a matter not on the regular agenda. No discussion or action may be taken on these items. *None.*

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

- A. CHAIR REPORT** – *None*
- B. STAFF REPORT** – *None*

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

A. Meek Estate– *The Commission will discuss proposed improvements to the site.*

Ms. Robinson-Pinon presented the staff report. The Chair added that he was awaiting a response from Jay Correia at SHPO who was going to refer the matter to the appropriate SHPO staff. He also announced and strongly urged the Commissioners to attend the upcoming California Historic Resource Commission meeting in Sacramento and the SHPO website has property listings to be considered for the State Register. Commissioner Allen noted the reason for the Commission meeting at the Dunsmuir--another wedding site, how it relates to the community, the location of the reception building and the historic house and the lack of on-site parking.

In reference to the Pullman car, the Chair also reported that per Jay Correia, SHPO, Mr. Lantry had submitted a Federal application using State forms. Mr. Correia has also provided him with a list of consultants and has recommended that this Commission should make a determination that the car is historic before SHPO's determination.

B. Row Chabot- *The Commission will discuss the status of the boating facilities improvements at Lake Chabot.*

Ms. Robinson-Pinon presented the staff report and no other discussion occurred.

C. San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery– *The Commission will hear an update on efforts to preserve and restore the cemetery.*

Ms. Robinson-Pinon presented the staff report and distributed copies of the Landscape Observations and Recommendations completed by PGA Design. There has been no response from Hayward Historical Society regarding their next meeting. The Chair added that as a result of Caltrans 238 Project, underground water has been re-routed towards the cemetery causing damage. As such, he suggested contacting Caltrans with the suggestion of a French drain. A discussion followed regarding possible sources of water; prior streamline ditch; high water table; water damage at the cemetery; deterioration of the soil at the grave sites; vandalism and fencing. Commissioner Sadoff concurred with the Chair's suggestion of contacting Caltrans and Commissioner Francis recommended submitting a letter.

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

A. Alameda Creek Signage- *The Commission will discuss the placement of signs in the area of the former Henkel's warehouse.*

Ms. Robinson-Pinon presented the staff report and added that she had contacted Barbara Meerjans, City of Fremont, who indicated that the City is focused on the overall redevelopment of the site, rather than signage. The Chair stated that he is a member of HARB which had considered the EIR on this project and further provided background history of the site. Although there is no proposed project for this site, the environmental impact issue will be discussed further this evening. To date, the Henkel Corporation has agreed to pay for the signage and to provide maintenance for five years. HARB is requesting permission for the signage. Commissioner Sadoff stated his support for signage and thought that a conceptual design would be appropriate. Commissioner Allen recommended a support letter. Staff noted that Mr. Hank Akerman, Public Works Agency

Flood Control District, has not had any contact with the City. *Commissioner Allen made the motion that a letter be submitted by the Commission in support of signage and Commissioner McMillan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Recognition of William Penn Mott- *The Commission will consider drafting a letter recognizing the contribution of William Penn Mott.*

Ms. Robinson-Pinon presented the staff report noting that Mr. Mott's biography had been included in the Commission package. Commissioner Allen distributed copies of a summary of his local County-wide involvement and announced the 100 year celebration of City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation department at Defremery Park. She requested letter of support from this Commission for Mr. Mott's commemoration would be appropriate sometimes in the future. Both Commissioners Waespi and Loughran spoke in support.

C. Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake- *The Commission will discuss events to commemorate the earthquake and ways in which the PRHC may want to participate.*

Commissioner Allen announced the City's upcoming tours highlighting the changes that occurred as a result of the earthquake and there will also be exhibits at the Oakland Library. The Bay Area News Group newspapers are asking the public to submit their experiences of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

VII. 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 – Commissioner Minard reported the upcoming Conference of California Historical Society will be held in Mendocino County on October 16th & 17th and urged attendance. HARB is working on an agreement with City of Fremont for the the Higuera Adobe kiosk and the Chinese bunk houses projects.

B. District 2: Steele - Commissioner Francis announced that the Hibachi competition at the skateboard park was well attended and the only problem is vandalism. He thought that perhaps HARD could install a fence around the court.

Commissioner McMillan announced the upcoming 150 year anniversary of the famous 1859 duel, reenacted by the History Guild of Daly City/Colma on Sunday, Sept 13th at 2:00 pm; and San Lorenzo Heritage Society's Octoberfest will be held on September 27, 3-6 pm at Supervisor Steele's Garden, 22586 Arlette Ave, Hayward, music provided by Arroyo High School Jazz Band and antique appraisal, \$20-adult and \$7-children.

C. District 3: Lai-Bitker - *None*

D. District 4: Miley - Commissioners Allen announced the following up-coming events: House tours on October 4th in Montclair District by Oakland Heritage Alliance; the opening of the cultural center in Chinatown on October 19th; and the 10,000 Steps Events walking tours led by her of the Oakland's Historic Town Squares. Commissioner Sadoff requested a status report on Cull Reservoir (to be agendized for the next meeting) including possible mitigation measures.

Commissioner Waespi announced the quasi-dedication of Holland Park in Ashland (163rd Avenue/E.14th).

E. District 5: Carson - *None*

V111. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Agenda Items for future meetings

In response to Commissioner McMillan, staff indicated that the Ordinance could be agendized first, perhaps next month, followed by the survey as this will require an evaluation from a consultant; and in response to Commissioner Allen, added that the contract for the assessment was not extended and the Board will hear the matter on September 15th.

- X. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, Commissioner Loughran made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner Waespi seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.