

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, November 21, 2019

Members present: Jim Casement, Wendy Ranney and Nancy Bird in Cordova, and via teleconference: John Wachtel. Absent: Heather Hall, Sylvia Lange and Cathy Sherman.

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Casement about 5 pm.
The agenda was approved without objection and a quorum was established.

Approval of minutes

Motion by Bird, seconded by Ranney to approve the minutes of April 25, 2019. Unanimous approval was given.

Commission membership and thanks to departing members/welcome to new members

It was announced that the Cordova City Council recently approved the appointments of Sylvia Lange and Cathy Sherman to 3-year terms on the Commission. Chair Casement acknowledged the service of outgoing member Brooke Johnson and welcomed Lange and Sherman. Bird said that Heather Hall's seat was also up for renewal, but the official request apparently did not get made; she is hopeful this can be rectified in the coming month or two.

Cordova Historic buildings survey – discussion

- a. High School Class – Bird stated that plans for this class were unable to be completed in time for the school year and so it had been cancelled. Ranney spoke with the high school principal at some length about setting up either a year-long class for next year (2020-2021 school year), or a half-year class. She explained that she would like to use a Brooklyn, New York course template that focuses on historic preservation (*"Past becomes future"*). The course would target/be limited to juniors and seniors and would include some field work associated with the inventory of historic properties. However, the course will only assist in getting the inventory done, not be the entire method to accomplish the inventory. Ranney also said she'd like the students to focus on the canneries in their inventory fieldwork.

The final project for both the half-year or year-long course would be creation of interpretive exhibits. Ranney wants to write up the two curricula and present them to the Commission in January. She emphasized that volunteers will be needed to make the course happen! She also noted that a teacher of record will be required and the high school's shop class will be good to have as a partner for the course to assist with building the interpretive exhibits.

Commission members were enthusiastic about this plan. Wachtel said he has reviewed software available to complete history property inventories and can share that information with the Commission and/or Ranney whenever appropriate.

In further discussion, it was agreed that **the Commission schedule its next meeting in mid-January (Jan. 9th or 16th) and that, tentatively, Wachtel will try to visit Cordova in February to present a training workshop related to history inventories.**

Review Chapter 18.90

Bird said she had received an email from the City Planner just before this meeting apologizing for the Commission's prior adoption of amendments to Chapter 18.90 having languished on his desk. He will be submitting them to the City Council for adoption and no further action is required by the Historic Commission at this time.

Planning for Election of Officers in new fiscal year (January 2020)

Chair Casement stated it will be timely to have election of officers at the January meeting. Bird encouraged all members to consider stepping up to the officer positions!

Next steps – next meeting date

Bird said she would send a notice requesting dates in January when the most Commission members might attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm (Motion by Bird, seconded by Ranney, with no objections).

These minutes were approved January 16, 2020.