

**MINUTES OF THE
REDONDO BEACH PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 2, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Preservation Commission was called to order at 7:06 p.m. at City Hall, 415 Diamond Street, by Chairperson Gibson.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Day, Dejernet, Jackson, Miller-Hack, Richer, Smith,
Chairperson Gibson
Commissioners Absent: None
Officials Present: Alex Plascencia, Assistant Planner
Margareet Wood, Recording Secretary

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Day led the members in the salute to the flag.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Miller-Hack, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve the order of agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Approval of Affidavit of Posting for the March 2, 2011 Preservation Commission meeting agenda
- Approval of minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2011
- Receive and file Strategic Plan update
- Receive and file written communications

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Motion by Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Hearing to Consider a Request for Designation of the Building and Property at 764 Avenue B as a Historic Local Landmark

Planner Plascencia described the features, location, and background of the property. He recommended approval of the historic landmark designation for the property to be named the Greenstone House.

Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Day, to open the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Donna McNeely, owner of the property, introduced herself.

Chairperson Gibson appreciated the appearance of the home with its many Spanish Colonia Revival details, and he pointed out the way it compliments the Smith House at 720 Avenue B.

Commissioner Dejernettt complimented the design of the wing-wall and gate.

Planner Plascencia pointed out the sunken living room and lower-level garage - elements that create an interesting sloping design.

Ms. McNeely clarified that the two small windows in the courtyard belong to back-to-back bathrooms. She also explained that interior design elements such as cove ceilings and tile reflect the Spanish style.

Motion by Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Miller-Hack, to adopt a resolution approving the designation of the property at 764 Avenue B as a local historic landmark subject to the conditions set forth. Motion carried unanimously.

Planner Plascencia answered that a Mills Act Contract will be processed as a standard procedure for historic landmark designations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion to Rename a Portion of a City Street to Ainsworth Court

Planner Plascencia displayed a map depicting the portion of George Freeth Way under discussion, which he said has been previously named Ainsworth Court and Harbor Drive. He also displayed an image of the nearby grounds of the former Hotel Redondo. He stated that John Ainsworth is important to the value and history of Redondo Beach.

Motion by Commissioner Miller-Hack, seconded by Commissioner Day, to receive and file historic information surrounding Ainsworth Court submitted by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson provided a brief history of the Ainsworth family home on Esplanade built by former Mayor Harry Ainsworth. She displayed a photo of a tree on the property, which she said may have been brought by the Ainsworth family from Oregon. She said it had been the intention of the Preservation Commission to rename the portion of street to Ainsworth Court rather than George Freeth Way.

Planner Plascencia did not believe that any structures carry an Ainsworth Court street address. He said the only financial impact of changing the street name would be the replacement of one street sign. He also said the street is City-owned and not an easement.

Commissioner Jackson clarified that the portion of the street under discussion is the east-west section of George Freeth Way that curves up to Esplanade; and the north-south section parallel to the ocean would remain George Freeth Way.

Chairperson Gibson supported the name change, which he said would restore the street's original name. He said that Captain Ainsworth played a huge role in Redondo Beach history and that his family deserves having the honor restored.

Motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Day, to authorize the Preservation Chairperson to draft a letter to City Council on behalf of the Preservation Commission recommending that they adopt the name change discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Gibson said that he will draft the letter for review by Planner Plascencia and Commissioner Jackson prior to forwarding to City Council.

Commissioner Dejernet recommended installing an Ainsworth path of history marker.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ainsworth Court Stairway/Historic Landscapes

Commissioner Jackson reported that the Historical Society board members enthusiastically received Commissioner Dejernet's presentation on the restoration of the Ainsworth Court Stairway and made a suggestion to reach out to Sharefest for suggestions for a sponsor. She also said that Los Angeles County supports the project.

Chairperson Gibson explained the idea behind Sharefest whereby youth or church groups adopt a community project. He said the removal of ice plant and dirt on and around the Staircase would be appropriate for such a project. He said that it would be necessary to haul away the dirt and debris. Since the deadline for submitting Sharefest proposals has passed for the current year, he suggested the project could be submitted for next year. He recommended that the subcommittee meet again to create a project

outline to submit to staff. He said the project would build community involvement and a constituency to support preservation of the Staircase.

Commissioner Dejernett mentioned that various permits and insurance would be required; and he also recommended applying for a Getty Foundation grant.

Survey Update

Chairperson Gibson circulated a letter from the Preservation Commission to the Mayor and City Council containing input for the City budget process. He noted that the letter contains a request for funding for the historic survey update. He requested that the members sign the letter which he said will be submitted to staff.

Motion by Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to receive and file the letter and to approve its submission to City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Historic District Formation

Planner Plascencia said there has been resident interest in establishing a Garnet Street historic district. He also said that the Knob Hill Community Center will not be available for neighborhood meetings after May since the City will vacate that space.

Chairperson Gibson requested staff to check on the availability of Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings in April or May for a community historic district informational meeting. He suggested that current homeowners of historic homes in the proposed districts could be invited to sponsor and co-host the meeting. He also recommended setting up a historic district presentation for the residents of the 500-600 block of Garnet Street.

Commissioner Dejernett volunteered to assist with any future preparations for a historic district on Carnelian Street.

Commissioner Jackson suggested that the upcoming Historic Society annual meeting in April may be an opportunity to present historic district information.

COMMISSION ITEMS AND REFERRALS TO STAFF

Commissioner Jackson announced the Redondo Beach Historic Home Tour on June 11.

Chairperson Gibson announced that the Eagles building on Catalina Avenue has become available; therefore any plans to modify the building will come before the Preservation Commission. He noted the Streamline Moderne architectural style of the building which he said has plenty of use remaining. He commented that it would have been a good location for the Recreation and Community Services offices, which are being relocated from Knob Hill Avenue to Artesia Boulevard.

ITEMS FROM STAFF

Planner Plascencia stated that the Eagles Lodge property is unique and contains a lot of square footage. He said that a historic overlay zoning designation could be approved over the current R3 zoning and that staff hopes to find an owner who is interested in adaptive reuse. He explained that a historic overlay zone allows for a different type of use not previously permitted and functions like an entitlement that runs with the land. He said that the current zoning allows for four residential units.

Notification of Planning Commission Projects

Planner Plascencia reported no historically significant properties on the current list of projects submitted to the Planning Department.

Planner Plascencia announced the upcoming Preservation conference in Santa Monica; and he requested the members to notify him if they wish to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Gibson adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. to the next regular meeting on May 4, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Plascencia
Associate Planner

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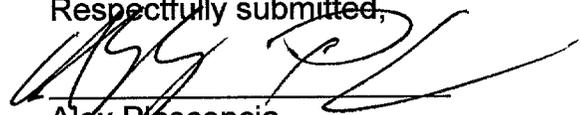
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