

MINUTES: of a special joint meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission (PC), and Historic and Scenic Preservation (H&SP) Commission of the City of Redlands held in the Assembly Room of the A.K. Smiley Library, 125 West Vine Street, on May 12, 2015 at 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Paul Foster, Mayor
Jon Harrison, Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Gilbreath, Councilmember
Paul Barich, Councilmember
John James, Councilmember

Carol Dyer, Chairman, PC
Ken Jeske, Commissioner
Steven Frasher, Commissioner
Conrad Guzkowski, Commissioner
Julie Rynerson Rock, Commissioner
Patrick Wallis, Commissioner

David Van Deist, Chairman, H&SPC
Donn Grenda, Commissioner
Shan McNaughton, Commissioner
Paige Peyton, Commissioner
Alison Roedl, Commissioner

ABSENT:

PC Commissioner Jan Hudson
H&SPC Commissioner Nathan Gonzales
H&SPC Commissioner Kurt Heidelberg

STAFF: Enrique Martinez, City Manager; Dan McHugh, City Attorney; Sam Irwin, City Clerk; Carl Baker, Public Information Officer; Oscar Orci, Development Services Director

Mayor Foster offered everyone present the opportunity to address the assembled bodies on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Redlands City Council or the Commissions present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

General Plan Update – Steve Rogers expressed concerns as to the source of funding to finance the City of Redlands effort to update the General Plan and cautioned the City Council not to let outside interests unduly influence the process.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOP:

Mayor Foster called the City Council workshop to order and deferred to Chairpersons Dyer and Van Diest to call their respective commissions to order.

Introductions – Mayor Foster kicked off the Preservation Workshop with words of welcome and a review of prior such joint sessions. Held at least once a year, the workshops have provided a forum to determine the City’s direction with regards to historic preservation. Projects have been identified, actual work has been performed, and much of it is because of the City’s strong citizen volunteer base. He thanked Sherli Leonard, Redlands Conservancy and Ron Running, Redlands Area Historical Society, for their time and assistance in preparing the evening’s agenda.

Fortnight Schedule – Sherli Leonard, of the Redlands Conservancy, presented an overview of events planned for the Redlands Historic Preservation Fortnight celebration consisting of walking tours, a “summit meeting”, receptions, a preservation faire and a “Sense of Redlands Tour.” Most events are free of charge and all are open to the public.

Accomplishments – Commissioners Van Diest, McNaughton, and Grenda, of the H&SPC, Ron Running, and Sherli Leonard discussed accomplishments of their individual organizations during the past year. Significant items include the H&SPC challenge of the demolition of the Starbucks/Bakers drive thru on Redlands Boulevard, a proposal to recognize historic resources with some form of signage, the development of a Historic Preservation Road Tour, the Historical Society’s completion of a Historic Resource List, the establishment of walking tours, a proposal for way finding signage, the republication of a book of historic photos of the Redlands area, the Conservancy’s nomination of two homes and Terrace Park as Historic Resources, and the establishment of the Sense of Redlands Tour.

Preservation Conversation – A hardy discussion, involving the City Councilmembers, all the Commissioners and members of the public, covered several subjects of interest to historic preservation in Redlands. Ron Running started the conversation with an assertion that perhaps historic preservation has reached a point of stagnation in Redlands and asked what is necessary to rejuvenate the effort. Topics ranged from the importance of marrying preservation with economic development, to a discussion of the cemetery, the idea of the old Highway 99 connection, the agricultural preserves, a re-evaluation of the historic district structure within the city, neighborhood branding, incentive programs, tourism, architectural guidelines, the scope of historic resource designation, archeology within the city, irrigation systems, modern construction standards versus antique infrastructure, new development, the Redlands Passenger Rail, and the Redlands Mall.

Assignments – Although no actions were taken by the City Council, Mayor Foster summarized the discussion by assigning tasks to address issues raised. He asked Donn Grenda to revisit the City of Redlands nomination form for Mills Act candidate properties to include coordination with the City Attorney’s office to see if the law will allow us to adapt the program to more closely meet our needs. Ron Running and the Historical Society were asked to become

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involved in the establishment of architectural guidelines. He asked the City Manager to look into hiring a consultant to help with Certified Local Government designation for the City of Redlands. The development of a way finding sign program and a PC and H&SPC mutual orientation program was addressed to Development Services Director Oscar Orci. The Mayor and Sherli Leonard agreed to meet to discuss other actions to be taken in the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Foster deferred to Chairpersons Dyer and Van Diest to adjourn their respective commission. There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 6:47 P.M. The next regular meeting of the City Council will convene on May 19, 2015, at 5:00 P.M.