

**Historic Resources Advisory Committee
Redwood City Elementary School District Offices
750 Bradford Street
Redwood City**

MINUTES

January 16, 2009
Redwood City School District
2:00-2:30p.m.

APPROVED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Bursak, Vice Chair James Gernard, Nori Jabba, Julia Pellizzer and Chair Ken Rolandelli

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Dee Eva, Rachel Holt

REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF: Superintendent Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendents Patricia McCrae and Julie O'Leary (Special Education)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Jany

Chair Rolandelli provided background information (referring to an e-mail from Liz Wolfe dated September 5, 2008) and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider changing the target audience for the Redwood City Annual National Historic Preservation Month School Tours Program from the 7th grade to 2nd or 3rd grade students. The program is coordinated by the HRAC and the costs are approximately \$2,000 and involve numerous volunteers and groups who donate their time and effort.

Chair Rolandelli explained that he has discussed this matter with both the Redwood City Heritage Association of Lathrop House and Carmen Blair of the San Mateo County History Museum. The Redwood City Heritage Association was supportive of the change. Carmen Blair – education staff for the San Mateo County History Museum indicated that in terms of changing grades, she has often thought that it would be more helpful for 8th grade students instead of 7th grade students because 8th grade students study U,S, History after 1850 which is the time period of their building and many of the exhibits. She feels it would be more helpful for their curriculum.

Ms. Blair pointed out that they already see a lot of Redwood City 2nd and 3rd grade students and that the Museum would not be interested in continuing with the program at those grade levels, in part because the students have already seen the building and in part because the San Mateo County History Museum would not want a quick stop at the museum to be seen a replacement for and in-depth 2-hour program that addresses the 2nd and 3rd grade content standards. Ms. Blair did indicate however that the Museum would continue the program with 7th grade students.

Superintendent Christensen explained that the genesis of the change had apparently come from feedback from Liz Wolfe who had heard concerns from 7th grade teachers regarding the program. Chair Rolandelli expressed surprise and explained that over the years he had received positive feedback from teachers and students.

Both Assistant Superintendents McCrae and O'Leary expressed support for the current program and noted that participation was voluntary. The group also discussed an option to consider involving 8th graders whose curriculum includes local history. The school district staff felt that the month of May, when National Preservation Month occurs, would not be an appropriate time for 8th graders. Ms McCrae suggested that additional feedback could be obtained from participating classes (teachers). Superintendent Christensen felt that the program worked well as it was and all agreed to resume work on preparing for 7th grade National Preservation Month Tour for 2009.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM to reconvene at 7:00 PM on February 12, 2009 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1017 Middlefield Road, Redwood City.

Staff Liaison: Charles Jany (650) 780-7239 email: cjany@redwoodcity.org

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