

**Historic Resources Advisory Committee  
Redwood City Hall  
1017 Middlefield Road  
Redwood City**

## **MINUTES**

April 9, 2009  
Redwood City hall Council Chambers  
7:00 p.m.

## **APPROVED**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** M. Bursak, D. Eva, Vice Chair Gernard, J. Pellizzer, and Chair Rolandelli

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** R. Holt, N. Jabba

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Planning Secretary Mateo, Principal Planner Jany

**GUESTS PRESENT:** John Shroyer, John Donahoe, Kaia Eakins

This meeting is dedicated in Jean Cloud's honor.

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Continue minutes from March 12, 2009 to next meeting

### **2. Disposition of 1909 Wm. J. Dingee plaque (item taken out of order)**

Mr. Jany stated that the Public Works Department delivered the plaque from what staff believes is a pump station site, the plaque was found in the warehouse area of the municipal services yard along with other plaques. The question was: where was the plaque originally located? Staff contacted the local History Room/Archives Committee for more research.

Chair Rolandelli stated the plaque is bronze and states "presented to Redwood City by William J. Dingee 1909".

John Shroyer, Redwood City resident, is a local historian and a collector of documents from the area and Mr. Shroyer displayed an historic document involving the Dingee Subdivision.

Chair Rolandelli stated that the plaque is very important and suggested that the Dingee plaque could be installed in the small park historically named Dingee Park or at Sequoia High School as Mr. Dingee once resided at the former estate that occupied the high school grounds.

### **3. General Plan questions from City consultant (Hogle-Ireland)**

Mr. Jany referred to packet attachment #3 containing answers responding to questions posed earlier by the HRAC.

**4. Review of letter report prepared for the property located at 115 Charter Street (for the purpose of demolition)**

Mr. Jany stated that the subject property located at the Southeastern intersection of Hancock Street and Charter Street, several structures which predate WWII are proposed to be demolished. The developer has consequently hired a historic consultant to determine the historic significance of the property and the HRAC will review a DPR as it becomes available.

**5. Historic Redwood City “Path of History” update (D.Eva)**

- **Downtown walking historic tour map**
- **Historic sign update**
- **Historic mural process**

Mrs. Eva stated that Charles, Gary Kelly and herself met with the manager of Wells Fargo Bank, Mr. Issa Mussallam, who was interested in the incorporation of historic information panels to an existing kiosk and installing historic plaques to an existing planter area at the corner of Broadway and Main Street. The bank manager is in the process of checking to see if the Wells Fargo organization is interested in providing financial assistance as well as historic photographs, in order to renovate the kiosk and the corner sign/plaque area. The manager stated that they need a written estimate of what the cost would be. Gary Kelly has obtained bids on these signs and is assembling proposals for the planter stand on the corner of Broadway and Main. The price appears to be just under \$10,000 for the two items, it does not include the cost to power wash the concrete of the kiosk and to paint the wood, which may cost another \$1,000. The kiosk would include four 4x8 panels, one of them being a tour map that Gary Kelly has designed on the Broadway side and the other three sides could have pictures of the local history. Well Fargo would be responsible for the maintenance.

Chair Rolandelli stated that the cost of the freestanding post and the plaques could be a concern. Mrs. Eva stated that the signs themselves are inexpensive, but the mounting system would increase the cost significantly. A suggestion was to have a single pole set in concrete, with attachments for four sides to be set in a planter, etc... Gary Kelly will assemble a layout and listing of all the sites. There is a Civic Cultural Commission grant for 2009 for \$2,000 which needs to be reactivated for the fiscal year.

Mrs. Eva stated they need to apply for another grant for the art and mentioned the Archives Commission as possible contributors to the funding of this effort.

Mr. Bursak stated that he is not sure how much the Archives Commission could contribute but he will find out and put it on their next agenda.

**6. Expanded Main Street Historic District**

Chair Rolandelli stated that since an evaluation of the “triangular property” located at 1001 Main Street has been prepared, the HRAC will need to contact the State and resume the process. A telecom will be set up with the State Historic Preservation Office in order to move the process forward.

**7. National Historic Preservation Month (2009)**

Mr. Rolandelli states that there are still a couple of tour openings that need to be filled.

Mr. Bursak stated that Bob Bryant will order the hot dog buns and the chips and store all of the food. Mr. Bursak will pick up the hotdogs and take care of the condiments and napkins himself. They will need someone to pick up the ice. Staff offered to assist in the pick up and delivery of ice to the reserved kiosk.

Mrs. Eva stated that McDonalds loans out their containers with juice.

Ms, Pellizzer stated that tree top apple juices in the green box are green friendly.

Mr. Bursak will shop for the water.

**8. Nominations for the Mayor's Annual Beautification Recognition**

1405 Middlefield Road – Best Historic Restoration  
228 Fulton – Best Historic Restoration (residential)  
148 Oakdale – Best Historic Restoration with addition  
959 Arlington – Best Historic Restoration with addition  
2236 Hopkins – addition and dry climate landscaping  
1633 Hopkins – clean-up, face lift, treatment of shingles

**M/S** (Pellizzer/Eva) to nominate 1405 Middlefield for Best Historic Restoration.

**Motion Passed**

**M/S** (Eva/Pellizzer) to nominate 959 Arlington Road for Best Historic Restoration with 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition and 2236 Hopkins for Best Historic Restoration with a single-story addition.

**Motion Passed**

**M/S** (Eva/Pellizzer) to nominate the Fox Theatre as the Best Commercial Historic Restoration and the Alhambra Building for Best Historic Rehabilitation.

**Motion Passed**

Mrs. Eva felt that there should be some place in downtown Redwood City where the Anagnostou Family could be recognized; perhaps a sign saying "Anagnostou Alley" in the short alley between La Tartine and the Fox Theatre?

**9. Internet plaque locator program on website (M. Bursak)**

Mr. Bursak stated that cell phones with GPS could provide specific information as to the exact location of significant sites. These coordinates could be then placed on the City's website such as locations of time capsules, historic items and what are in the capsules.

Mrs. Eva suggested a plot map on the City's website.

Mr. Bursak suggested using Google maps (for latitude and longitude) would provide accurate locations.

Chair Rolandelli mentioned talking with Molly Spore-Alhadeh from the local History Room of the Redwood City Library on the topic of capsules and plaques.

**10. Policies for adopting minutes and other rules of order**

Mr. Jany responded to HRAC questions regarding what would constitute a vote quorum for taking action on minutes in the instances when there is less than full membership.

**11. Edgewood Park/Wellesley Tract survey area/neighborhood. Discussion of how we might enlist community assistance in locating properties eligible for historic designation; potential district consideration?**

Chair Rolandelli stated that at this point, all that has been given to the Committee is a map that reflects different time frames of this particular area and until they decide to go to the site and verify the dates and conditions of the property, there is nothing much more to talk about.

Mrs. Eva stated that the Committee considered including Mt. Carmel on the map. Mr. Jany pointed out that the boundaries of a potential study area had not been determined by the HRAC and that this would need further discussion and analysis.

Mr. Gernand stated that the map is produced using County data showing year-built for different parcels and then referred to the groupings and the colors used, and asked if this information was processed using a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program. He asked about the different period groupings, looking at it decade by decade.

Mr. Jany stated confirmed that the City was using a GIS program; the major growth periods of history in Redwood City were: before the 1906 earthquake, before the great depression, between the great depression and WWII and after WWII.

Mr. Jany stated that CEQA involves potential resources older than 50 years old, but the age is not the only criteria to qualify as a potential resource. The State defers to the communities to determine the periods of significance of each community.

Chair Rolandelli referred to 1306 Whipple which showed a year built of 1897, and in driving by there was an apartment house at that location. He confirmed the need to confirm the status of the potential resources via a visual inspection.

Mr. Schroyer asked if CEQA applies to single homes.

Mr. Jany confirmed that CEQA concerns generally relate to assessing potential impacts, that there are exemptions but historic resources can also include single-family dwellings.

Chair Rolandelli added that it depends on the nature of the resource; it could be very old and not considered a resource.

Mr. Jany, in response to questions about what constitutes a district, said that it generally implies a dense assembly of documented resources and added that the State determines the boundaries for certifiable districts. A district could be a street segment, or a cluster of buildings or a vast area.

Mr. Jany will set up a meeting with the City Attorney's Office to discuss the issue of participating for HRAC members residing in or adjacent to areas under consideration from determination of historic significance.

Chair Rolandelli stated that the next step in the district consideration process for the Committee to go out on foot for a visual assessment and then, to validate the boundaries.

## **12. Oral Communications and Matters of Committee Interest**

- **Ampex-related information from Mark Sanders, former executive of Ampex Corporation**

Mr. Jany stated that he spoke with Mark Sanders who provided information regarding the AMPEX sign. Mr. Sanders indicated the sign was put up when building 3 (the new Ampex Headquarter building) was built in 1962 (and opened in 1963). There was no prior sign, and the sign is still in its original location and has never been modified, except possibly for lighting. He referred to a DPR form by Dr. Laura Jones on the sign in the HRAC packet and he asked the Committee to determine if this information is accurate and complete.

Chair Rolandelli would like to see an old photo of the sign.

Mr. Jany stated that there is no decision involved at this stage, just information sharing. The HRAC is asked to consider the information and decide to either incorporate it into the record and/or to direct the consultant to take that information into consideration for possible revisions.

John Donahue, Stanford University, stated that his organization has some additional photographs that they could make available to the Committee indicating that the sign has been modified and that the frame itself has been in place since it was erected, but the lettering has been changed at least twice. They are also going back and looking at various areas of the vicinity of former AMPLEX campus to try to locate the actual placement of the sign. All related historic documentation will be reviewed by the HRAC during the EIR "review and comment period".

- **Davis CLG Training**

Mr. Jany stated that Mr. Gernand, Mr. Bursak and himself will be attending the CLG training on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-10:00pm.

- **Mils Act properties – open for public tours?**

Continue to next meeting.

- **Sequoia High School Graduation Plaques and c. 1939 woodshop building update**

Continue to next meeting.

- **Downtown Precise Plan Update**

Mr. Gernand stated that at the Mayor's quarterly meeting it was said that the whole Downtown Precise Plan was being re-done.

Mr. Jany stated that it was decided by City Council that an upgrade of the Environmental Review of the DPP should be done. Staff is working with Sheila McElroy from Circa to upgrade the inventory in order to assemble a very detailed document. Either a DPR or BSO (Building Structure Object Report) will be done. Staff is assembling significant research document in order to respond to the concerns of the lawsuit.

Mr. Gernand asked if this was a re-working of some of the maps and charts.

Mr. Jany said that it will contain all of the original flow charts and summaries, but the level of explanation will be vastly expanded.

Mr. Gernand asked about the shadows being significant with respect to historic resources and was curious how that was resolved.

Chair Rolandelli pointed out that those are two separate things and confirmed with staff that these issues are also being addressed in parallel.

- **General Plan update (revised draft background report)**

Mr. Rolandelli stated that there will be a special meeting regarding the Draft Background Report that has been revised, the Committee will receive a 20 page revised document to review.

A special meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 4:00pm in City Hall conference room.

## **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Rolandelli stated that he has a lunch time meeting with Ralph Garcia and the Optimist Club to speak about History of Redwood City on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>; he will need a screen and equipment for a powerpoint presentation. He would like to use visuals, what was there now and what was there before.

Mrs. Eva suggested using the path of history map as a handout.

Mr. Rolandelli felt that there was an area that needed to be looked at which could have historic district potential. The area begins around Iris Street, Hopkins is the main street, the area would wrap around Duane Street and goes toward Sequoia high school. All the side streets are Iris, Hudson, Grand, Fulton, Elwood, etc. The homes are mainly craftsman bungalows. He would like a parcel map starting at King Street to El Camino Real, between Brewster and Whipple.

Mrs. Eva asked if property owners can opt out of a historic District.

Mr. Jany replied that historic designations are the City Council's prerogative and do not require property owner consent however the HRAC's process is to inform and share all information of benefits with all affected. Mr. Jany will get information to the Committee regarding HPOZ's.

## **9. Adjournment**

**M/S:** (Pellizzer/Eva) to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Passed**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM to reconvene at 7:00 PM on May 4, 2009 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1017 Middlefield Road, Redwood City.