

# HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## C.L.G. ANNUAL REPORT 2007

### C.L.G.: City of Redwood City Historic Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC)

Certification date: 11/20/92

Level of Certification: Threshold

Period covered: October 2005 to September 2006

#### **Summary:**

- No changes have been made to the current Redwood City Historic Preservation Ordinance (under separate cover)
- The HRAC has continued their leadership role in the nationwide community participation event of National Preservation Week (National Trust). With the support of the Redwood City Redevelopment Agency, Planning Dept., Planning Commission and City Council (original of the 4.24.06 Council Resolution, under separate cover), the HRAC has sponsored and coordinated this educational event with the Redwood City Elementary School District, 7<sup>th</sup> grade (Local History curriculum). The main event involved Community volunteer-led guided tours for **800 students** (plus teachers, chaperons and parents) through three separate National Register Properties: (1863 Lathrop House, 1908 Historic Courthouse and 1928 Sequoia-Fox Theater), lunch is also provided free to students (Municipal press release under separate cover).
- Introduction of new criteria for the designation of historic signs in the Redwood City Sign ordinance -- Chapter 3, Articles II and III of the Municipal Code (under separate cover).
- Incorporation of Historic Resource Evaluation section to the Redwood City Draft Downtown Precise Plan in compliance

with the Redwood City Municipal Ordinance, the Redwood City General Plan, Secretary of Interior's Standards, and CEQA, (under separate cover).

- On March 7, 2006, the HRAC which included Chair Rolandelli and CLG coordinator attended a OHP workshop series on the Secretary of Interior's Standards in compliance with the yearly training requirement for CLG's.
- Processing of a NEPA/HUD environmental assessment under 24 CFR 58.36. in compliance with the National Preservation Act (NHPA) regarding the construction of a 16 unit permanent Supportive Housing at Cedar Street corner Lathrop Street). Confirmation of Area of Potential Effect (APE). This project also involved DPR 523 (Department of Parks and Recreation forms) historic evaluation prepared by Circa Consultants and confirmation of California Historical Status Code ratings by the HRAC (under separate cover).
- Mitigation and monitoring during project construction for full compliance with historic archeological and cultural mitigation measures in the San Mateo County Courthouse and Plaza reconstruction project EIR (complete documents previously submitted in 2005 CLG report ).
- Certification of the Main Street Historic District by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (see enclosed letter date-stamped October 12, 2005 from Mr. Guy Lapsley of Technical Preservation Services).
- Membership changes involve the appointment of Dee Eva as well as James Gernand (application forms, under separate cover), and Nancy Radcliffe was re-appointed as Planning Commission liaison for another year. Although the attendance chart shows David Lococo, as frequently absent he has contributed significant time and effort in his role as Architectural Engineer to local historic Preservation efforts that the HRAC is working on, primarily working on projects from his office at Watry Design Group, or home due to special health concerns. Jean Cloud has transitioned into emeritus status (non-voting), and Joanne Thompson also remains as member emeritus. No other changes have affected the HRAC membership. See "HRAC Membership and Attendance" section.

- See attached meeting “Minutes & Agendas” section (under separate cover).

The HRAC continues to be an excellent example of a true “Working Committee” run by a self-sufficient group of qualified volunteers who are highly devoted to the cause of historic preservation/education in the Redwood City community. An important source of motivation continues to be their knowledgeable, well respected and supportive Chairperson (Ken Rolandelli, 26 years on the HRAC and also a charter member). All members are dedicated volunteers who contribute their time, recommendations and multi-faceted expertise in the field of historic preservation.

Some highlights of what the HRAC has been working on include the following:

- **Designation of Mezesville Historic Residential District:**

Local district designation of the oldest residential subdivision in Redwood city containing the first private land dedicated for public purposes in California (Mezes park). A highly successful community outreach process, (under separate cover).

- **Mills Act Contracts:**

The HRAC continues to promote these historic property-related benefits since they are one of the best incentives in the State for the preservation of historic properties. Several are in the pipeline at the time of this writing and these are expected to be reviewed by Council before the end of 2007.

HRAC chair and Redwood City CLG coordinator have inspected and verified compliance of the seven “Mills Act” contracts currently in place, this program has been very successful in insuring the physical maintenance of a few of the City’s most scarce historic resources:

1. 142 Stambaugh street (commercial)
2. 397 Stambaugh Street
3. 439 Stambaugh Street
4. 226 Edgewood Road
5. 610 Edgewood Road
6. 197 Wellesley Crescent

## 7. 423 Beech Street

- **Public education and Community building focusing on the Historic Growth patterns and landmarks of the Community.**

The HRAC is the key sponsor of National Preservation Month Activities in Redwood City. CLG coordinator outreach and educational activities include:

- Speaker at City's community outreach program: PACT (Partnership Academy for Citizen's Teamwork) program focusing on historic tour and preservation-related activities in the downtown.
- Booth representative (showcasing exhibits which promote Redwood City's historic roots) at the Historic Courthouse Façade Reconstruction and Plaza dedication ceremony. The event concluded with a public tour of Redwood City's downtown historic resources.

- **Documentation of historic resources:**

Due to a continual flow of applications involving historic resources, new information in the form of DPR's and other historic evaluations are prepared by qualified professionals. Most of this additional information is entered electronically into the City's "tracking system" thanks to the City's GIS program. The HRAC reviews such information for accuracy and as a result, the data base has expanded significantly this year. However, other urgent priorities such as the Downtown Precise Plan and implementation and management of major projects have shifted the prioritization of this effort.

- "Long Range" Planning Staff has continued its work on updating of the Redwood City General Plan which includes the review of the Historic Element.
- The HRAC also retains a close relationship (primarily for the purpose of background documentation) with the Redwood City Local History Room (contact RCPL History Room [rcinfo@plsinfo.org](mailto:rcinfo@plsinfo.org) ) which includes the retrieval of archival information from its rich local history collection located inside

the Redwood City Main Library (also the seat of the private non-profit Redwood City Archives Group).

- The HRAC's involvement with the local community of Historic advocates also includes close interaction with the San Mateo County Historical Museum/Association in Downtown ([www.sanmateocountyhistory.com](http://www.sanmateocountyhistory.com)) which is located with in the old San Mateo County Courthouse building (also the seat of the private non-profit RWC genealogical society).
- Further HRAC/community participation includes interaction with the Redwood City Heritage Association operating from the County-owned historic c.1863 Lathrop house, as well as the Historic Union Cemetery Association (HUCA) c.1859 staffed by the Parks and Recreation and Community service staff Three main functions characterize the HRAC's role:

- 1. Project and design review, local committee review and recommendations to Planning Commission/City Council**
- 2. Analysis and preparation of Historic documentation and recommendations for the preservation of historic resources**
- 3. Coordination of Historically-related as well as the development of educational events promoting history and historic preservation (i.e. National Preservation week, PACT program).**

## **DESIGN REVIEW**

**National Register (and eligible) properties review (see attachment):**

- Evaluation of the preservation status relating to the 1939 Woodshop building at the Sequoia High School Campus at 1201 Brewster, listed on the National Register. Review of Engineer's report and funding options.
- Historic graduation Plaque marker project at Sequoia High School Campus
- "Solari Windmill" reconstruction project at the Historic Union Cemetery, (under separate cover).

- Historic Courthouse Façade and Plaza Reconstruction project implementation
- Sequoia Hotel repair of fire damage to ground floor tenant space a contributing structure to a National Register eligible district: the Main Street Historic District , (under separate cover).
- 830 Middlefield Road façade remodel (property determined to be eligible for listing on National register – south wing of Sequoia Fox Theater located at 2111-2125 Broadway, (under separate cover).

### **Concluding Statements:**

Through the continuing efforts of the Redwood City's HRAC, which is strongly supported by the Planning Commission, City Council, numerous Citizens and organizations and Staff, Redwood City continues on its steady course to showcase its unique character as the oldest city between Santa Clara and San Francisco, the Seat of the San Mateo County and a community rich and proud of its historic resources. Redwood City continues to take very special measures to make sure that its projects, recommendations and actions are in full compliance with historically-related Local, State and Federal Law, ordinances and regulations and standards such as its General plan, its Historic Preservation Ordinance, the Secretary of Interior's Standards, and the California Environmental Quality Act Regulations.

The HRAC maintains a solid working relationship with both developers and owners of historic properties in Downtown Redwood City. The Redwood City Downtown Precise Plan has a well crafted section specifically geared towards the preservation of historic resources (see Section 2.2.7 (under separate cover). This concern is also reflected in the City's draft Sign ordinance i.e. section 3.106. Historic Signs, (under separate cover).

The HRAC continues to set good examples of preservation at the grassroots level and receives numerous calls from other jurisdictions interested to hear "how Redwood City does it".

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