

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

January 5, 2016 5:00 p.m.

City Manager's Conference Room, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, CA

Approved February 2, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hart called a regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission to order at 5:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Conference Room at 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California.

ATTENDANCE

Members Attending: Commissioners Hart, Niemeier, Sherman, Swanson, and Wilcox.

Staff Attending: Director of Community Development Dick, Senior Planner Jacobs, and Associate Planner Kinnard.

Absent: Commissioners Jones and Schmitz.

Visitors: Keith Okonski representing 15-09 and Don Cary, resident.

COMMUNICATIONS None.

At the suggestion of the Chair, the order of the agenda was adjusted to allow a member of the public to speak prior to consideration of the business items.

Mr. Cary, resident of 8760 Alpine Avenue, distributed information about his 1955 residence and its architect, C.J. Paderewski. Mr. Cary asked for guidance on applying for landmark designation. Commissioners asked questions about the condition of the house and suggested that he contact the La Mesa Historical Society as a resource for historical research. No action was taken.

HEARINGS None.

BUSINESS

- a. **HPC-15-09 (Sparkys Properties, Inc.)** – Revisions to a previously approved addition to a single-family residence at 4171 Merritt Boulevard in the R1R-P (Semi-Rural Residential/Scenic Preservation Overlay) zone. The Prather House is a locally designated historic landmark.

Associate Planner Kinnard described the revisions to the project. The applicant said that the changes are needed to improve the functionality of the floor plan.

Commissioner Hart led the Commission through a side-by-side comparison of the old and new plans and there was a discussion about each of the changes. No significant concerns were identified. The lack of offset on the east elevation between old and new construction was not deemed to be problematic because the addition is two stories high and therefore clearly distinct from the original footprint.

ACTION: Commissioner Hart made a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed addition as shown on the plans dated December 28, 2015.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion.

Aye: Commissioners Hart, Niemeier, Sherman, Swanson, and Wilcox.
Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Jones and Schmitz.

b. Discussion about the Historic Resources Inventory.

In response to interest from HPC members about updating the Inventory, staff provided a list of questions to consider in developing needs and priorities. Each question on the list was briefly discussed and staff made note of the responses.

Commissioner Sherman spoke about the documents that comprise the City's historic preservation program and how they work together. He asked staff to look into the possibility of having the Planning Commission appoint an ex-officio member to the HPC as provided for in the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Staff agreed to follow up on this.

This item will be placed on the February 2, 2016 HPC agenda for further consideration. No action was taken.

c. Approval of the minutes from the December 1, 2015 meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Sherman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Swanson seconded the motion.

Aye: Commissioners Hart, Niemeier, Sherman, Swanson, and Wilcox.
Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: Commissioners Jones and Schmitz.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Associate Planner Kinnard replied to a prior inquiry from Commissioner Swanson about the condition of palm trees on Nebo Drive.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Commissioner Hart reported that the drinking fountain at Nebo Drive and La Mesa Boulevard, next to the La Mesa Depot Museum, is leaking. Staff offered to submit a work order to Public Works.

There was an inquiry about the future of the former auto sales lot at 8381 La Mesa Boulevard. Staff said that the status is unknown as no development application has been submitted.

It was suggested that the Public Discussion and Audience Participation portion of the meeting be moved to the beginning of the agenda, consistent with other Boards and Commissions. Staff agreed to make this change on future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Allyson Kinnard, Associate Planner