



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m. Monday, January 23, 2012
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair WELSH called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair WELSH, Commissioners AHMADJIAN-BAER, BAKER, BISHOP, CHAPMAN, LONEY and MARFATIA.

Absent: None

Staff: Staff Liaison DAHL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Hedden spoke about an upcoming historic bike tour that was being sponsored by GreenTown Los Altos as part of the City's 60th Anniversary celebrations. The ride is scheduled for September 29, 2012 and more information can be found at www.losaltosat60.org.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes from the November 28, 2011 regular Historical Commission meeting.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LONEY SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA, to approve Meeting Minutes.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Historic Resources Inventory Update

Staff Liaison DAHL presented an update on the status of the Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Update, noting that six properties – 531 Rosita Avenue, 164 Doud Drive, 973 Dolores Avenue, 479 Los Altos Avenue, 1284 Paula Court and 44 View Street – had Kalman ratings of 49 or below and required formal action by the Commission in order to be listed on the HRI. In addition, staff noted that three Downtown properties – 300 Main Street, 301 Main Street and 316 Main Street – had been identified by the consultant as potentially not having the physical integrity necessary to be Historic Resources or Landmarks.

The owner of 531 Rosita Avenue spoke against designating his property as a Historic Resource and listing it on the HRI due to the fact that the house's physical integrity was significantly altered and it did not have an historic significance. He presented photos and a floor plan to support his claims.

Staff Liaison DAHL also conveyed a message from the owner of 44 View Street noting that the house was in poor condition and that it did not have any historic significance.

Chair WELSH recued herself from discussion about 531 Rosita Avenue due to the fact that she lived within 500 feet of the property.

The Commission discussed the Rosita Avenue property, noting that it did not appear to merit listing on the HRI.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAKER, to make findings that the property at 531 Rosita Avenue lacked the physical integrity and historic significance to be designated as a Historic Resource.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0).

The Commission discussed the remaining five properties, noting some had window replacements additions and that there could be historic significance that was not yet known.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP, to continue consideration of the property at 164 Doud Drive and direct staff to work with the Los Altos Historic Museum to research the historic significance of the property.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN, to continue consideration of the property at 973 Dolores Avenue and direct staff to work with the Los Altos Historic Museum to research the historic significance of the property.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA SECONDED BY CHAIR WELSH, to continue consideration of the property at 479 Los Altos Avenue and direct staff to work with the Los Altos Historic Museum to research the historic significance of the property.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to continue consideration of the property at 1284 Paula Court and direct staff to work with the Los Altos Historic Museum to research the historic significance of the property.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LONEY, to make findings that the property at 44 View Street lacked the physical integrity and historic significance to be designated as a Historic Resource.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission also discussed the three properties on Main Street and raised concerns about delisting them due to the fact that they were such prominent Downtown buildings, noting that the building forms of 300 and 301 Main Street were still intact and that all three had significant history as original Downtown buildings. The Commission directed staff to work with the History Museum to better document and understand the historic significance associated with each building.

3. Historic Preservation Award

Commissioner BAKER presented the final draft of the proposed Historic Preservation Award and the nomination of Don McDonald as the first recipient of the award given his contributions to Los Altos history.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA, to recommend that the City Council adopt a Los Altos Historic Preservation Award and nominate Don McDonald as the first recipient of the Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. 2066 Crist Drive

The Commission discussed preparation of a complete DPR evaluation form to document the historic significance of the garage at 2066 Crist Drive related to the development of original Apple computers.

NO MOTION

5. Certified Local Government Program – 2010-2011

Staff Liaison DAHL presented the City's annual CLG Report to the Commission for review and approval.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to accept the Certified Local Government Annual Report, with edits as noted, and direct staff to submit it to the State.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Margaret Thompson Essay Contest

Chair WELSH reported that over 2,000 essay prompts had been delivered to elementary school children around the community, that the essay prompts had been posted on the City's website, that she was working to develop an instructional manual for future Commissioners to use and that the judging would take place on the last Saturday in March.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair WELSH requested that the Plaque Program be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

The owners of 1485 Fremont Avenue presented historical information on their property and provide a brief history of the property.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair WELSH adjourned the meeting at 8:59 PM