

Heritage Preservation Board
Regular Meeting
January 28, 2008

Miscellaneous Business

A. Call to Order

Nancy Curley, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Present: Board Members Marilyn River, Sallyanne Wilson, Helen Heitkamp,
Planner Kristin Teiche.

Guests: Sara Garcia, Consultant Dan Peterson and Roger Diehnal

Absent: Chair Grayson Marshall and Boardmembers Jim Adams, Kathie
Kearley-Green.

Staff Report – Kristin Teiche: The City Manager and Finance Director are re-considering the future of the Mills Act program. Planner Teiche said the city currently only has one Mills Act home under contract (234 Hawthorne) and a new application has been submitted for 55 Walnut and 105 King Street may also apply. Planner Teiche is not sure what is prompting this but assumes it is due to potential financial losses. Boardmembers were dismayed at the possibility of losing the Mills Act especially as there are a couple properties interested and hoped that they would be able to participate in a discussion of the matter with City Staff. The Board also suggested it would be important to research other cities with Mills Act contracts in place to see how they cope with the financial loss.

Regular Business Items

1. Amendment of Larkspur's Inventory of Historic Resources. Discuss progress and share information on research regarding properties that are proposed for inclusion onto the historic inventory. Dan Peterson, the City's Historic Architectural Consultant will be in attendance to answer questions.

Planner Teiche said that she and consultant Dan Peterson re-reviewed all the properties taking into account additional research information. A few properties have now had their rating adjusted.

Boardmembers asked Mr. Peterson why certain houses were suggested and other that appeared to be better examples were not. Mr. Peterson said he was hired only to review the properties provided in a list by the Board.

Some addresses that were discussed:

- 15 Estelle – was re-evaluated and the score lowered but still maintained its “B” status.
- 219 Monte Vista – will not be added to inventory
- 131 King – score lowered to a “C”
- 134 Magnolia – score lowered due to a loss of architectural integrity.
- 232 W. Baltimore – good example of a classic bungalow
- 230 Monte Vista – essentially torn apart and rebuilt – score lowered due to remodel
- 607 Magnolia – on inventory. Recently sold but will require an extensive remodel to make it livable
- 8/10 Alexander – owners want to be placed on inventory. Staff noted all records on “C” rated properties will be kept in the database and can be later elevated once restored.
- 126 Magnolia – currently on inventory
- 116 Magnolia – proposed – providing history may possibly elevated rating
- 1 Baltimore – why is it not listed? Mr. Peterson agreed that it was worth evaluating. Boardmember River to provide research.

Also discussed was the need to recognize other heritage non-structures such as the Oak tree on W. Baltimore, the Palm trees, stone walls, topiary hedge in front of City Hall.

Boardmember Wilson suggested that the City place a plaque in front of heritage trees stating their significance.

Boardmembers asked how the information would be presented to the City Council. Planner Teiche thought that the presentation that was used to provide information to the public had been effective and could be modified for the Council. Completed forms from the database will be provided for council review.

Boardmember Wilson thought with 2008 being the City’s Centennial year a lot of information will be available which will help educate the general public on preservation issues. She thought it would be helpful if the hearings with the City Council could be scheduled for March.

Planner Teiche said that Consultant Peterson still needed some time to complete incorporating the Board’s research into the database.

2. Items for Board Review and/or Comment and Action: *This item was heard first due to guest Sara Garcia being in attendance.*

- Historic Photographs – Printing and storage of pre-printed photographs for Centennial Celebrations. Mrs. Garcia, who coordinates the printing of historic photos for the public, said that the photo store she had been using no longer is able to print the photos. Currently she has been able to locate one other person in the area to reproduce photos from the negatives. The photographer, Tom Higgins, suggested to her that it might be better to digitize all the negatives due

to the fact that each time he has to reproduce a photo from the negative the negative gets more and more degraded. Mrs. Garcia said it would be worthwhile for the city to invest in a scanner/copier so once the negatives are digitized the City can print photos "in-house". She also identified certain photos that are most often requested by the public and suggested that in light of the Centennial to have additional photographs made and offer them for sale at various events. Mrs. Garcia was asked if she could research the number of negatives currently stored in the bank vault and to ask various sources the cost to digitize the collection. Staff Teiche will assist.

3. Announcements and Attachments:

Planning Commission is having a special meeting March 6, 2008 to discuss the Niven Nursery site.

Recording Secretary Bamatter mentioned a recent visit to the Mill Valley Library's History Room and how impressed she was by a collection of black and white photos that lined the hallway. The photos were a mix of historic photos and others that were destined to become historic photos. The more recent photos covered shots of local businesses and their employees as well as local residents and events.

The 1909 banner will soon be sent out to be restored. Beth Szuhay of the DeYoung Museum will undertake the restoration. Recording Secretary Bamatter to coordinate the contract and deliver of the banner.

4. Approval of Minutes: Boardmembers Wilson/Heitkamp moved to approve minutes as revised. All ayes.

5. Next Meeting: February 25, 2008. Meeting date is late due to President's Day on the 18th.

Adjournment

Board Member Heitkamp moved, seconded by Board member River, to adjourn the January 28, 2008 meeting of the Heritage Preservation Board at 7:30pm. Board Members unanimously approved this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathalie Bamatter
Recording Secretary