

CITY OF VENTURA

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Laura O'Neill, Chair
Ann Huston, Vice-Chair
Dena Mercer, Member
Paul Muller, Member
Rachel Perzel, Member

Peter Gilli, Community Development Director
Neda Zayer, Assistant Community Development Director
Andy Heglund, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Antoinette Mann, City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.

WEBEX

Chair O'Neill called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Mercer, Muller, Vice-Chair Huston, and Chair O'Neill

Absent: Member Perzel

Staff: Neda Zayer, Assistant Community Development Director
Andy Heglund, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Jared Rosengren, Principal Planner
Tim Rosenstein, Associate Planner
Antoinette Mann, City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

CONSENT ITEM

1. Approval of the HPC February 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Recommended Action: Approve, as presented.

Chair O'Neill made a motion to approve the February 19, 2020 Historic Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes as presented.

Member Mercer seconded the motion.

Upon call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Members Mercer, Muller, and Chair O'Neill

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Vice-Chair Huston (not present at the 2/19/20 meeting)

RECUSED: None

ABSENT: Member Perzel

City Clerk Mann declared the motion carried 3 – 0, with Vice-Chair Huston abstained and member Perzel absent.

FORMAL ITEM

2. **PROJ-12828 – The Willet Ranch Historic Preservation Design Review at 181 Klamath Street.**

Request for Historic Preservation Design Review of an interpretive panel conveying the history of the Willett Ranch farm to be placed in a 6.5-acre City park in the Residential Planned Development (R-P-D-8) zoning district with a land use designation of Neighborhood Medium.

Recommendation: Approve the interpretive panel in the proposed location.

California Environmental Quality Act

The project is categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities).

Case Planer: Tim Rosenstein, Associate Planner

Applicant: CalAtlantic Group

SPEAKERS:

Staff: Neda Zayer, Assistant Community Development Director and Tim Rosenstein, Associate Planner

Applicant: Laura Janssen, Historic Resources Group, Inc.

Member of the Public: None

Documents: PowerPoint by staff

Ex Parte Communication: None

Chair O'Neill made a motion to approve the interpretive panel in the proposed location based on the findings and subject to conditions in the Notice of Decision, **HPC-2020-03** entitled:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING DESIGN REVIEW APPROVAL

PROJ-12828
Case No. HPDR-2-19-49088

with the following edits to the text of the interpretative panel narrative as recommended by the Committee. The final approval of the text would be approved at the staff level.

- Lacks connection to the Ventura agricultural history. It would be more interesting and historically significant to place the Willett Ranch narrative in the context of Ventura’s agricultural history where at one time the entire Ventura Avenue was agricultural.
- First Column:
 - A short sentence that identifies the period as an agricultural. Placement at the bottom part of the first column will suffice.
 - Paragraph 2, line 1 and 2, “*The region’s excellent soil and weather led to the development of many other orchards ~~to many other orchards~~ and farms along Ventura Avenue covering nearly two miles.*” (add a little bit more text at the end).
- Middle Column:
 - Paragraph 2, line 3, “... from the rear ~~back~~ of the ranch closer to ~~near~~ Ventura Avenue and ~~where he~~ lived there with his wife Edith...”
- Green Column:
 - Paragraph 2, line 6 and 7, “*Ventura County agriculture has prospered for over one hundred fifty years*” – not an accurate account since agriculture in the area goes back further during the Mission period.
 - Paragraph 3, “*But as good as the soil ...*” – the statement is stronger by removing the word But.

Member Muller seconded the motion.

Upon call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Members Mercer, Muller, Vice-Chair Huston and Chair O’Neill

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

RECUSED: None

ABSENT: Member Perzel

City Clerk Mann declared the motion carried 4 – 0, with Member Perzel absent.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

3. Citywide Historic Context Statement Survey Update.

Case Planner: Jared Rosengren, Principal Planner

SPEAKERS:

Staff: Jared Rosengren, Principal Planner, Neda Zayer, Assistant Community Development Director, and Andy Heglund, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Member of the Public: None

Documents: PowerPoint by staff

Staff presented the Committee status of the survey and responded to Committee's inquiries regarding projected milestone especially during the time of COVID-19 pandemic, how to provide feedback on the document, ex-parte communication, public engagement, and public input.

STAFF & COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Assistant Community Development Director Zayer informed the Committee of the upcoming HPC hearings: July 1st will be cancelled, and July 15 is the next hearing date.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.