

Historic Resources Board

Minutes June 16, 2021

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

1. Meeting called to order at 5:04 PM by Chair Schey via Zoom.
2. Roll call was taken: Chair Schey, David Wentworth, Sr., Amory Hanson, Sue Nguyen, Mark Zambrano, and Joe Santiago present. Ronn Knowles and Duane Wentworth not present. Library liaison Steven Park present. Ashley Wysocki, Deputy Director for Community and Library Services present.
3. John Scandura present.
4. The meeting was recorded.

II. Welcome and Introduction

1. Denise Ruocco, Shirley Dettloff, Kathryn Goddard, all from the Friends of the Shipley Nature Center present.

III. Public Comments

- i. n/a

IV. Consent Calendar

1. Approval of Minutes

- i. The May 2021 HRB minutes were approved with changes. Hanson motioned for approval and Wentworth, Sr. 2nd. All present approved.

V. Presentations: Shipley Nature Center

1. Presentation on the Shipley Nature Center delivered by former Mayor Shirley Dettloff, Friends of Shipley Nature Center Board President Kay Goddard, and FSNC Secretary Denise Ruocco.
2. Schey noted the HRB is really honored to have our presenters speak with us today.
3. Dettloff addressed the History of the Nature Center land, beginning with the Tongva/Gabrielinos. She addressed the archaeological evidence of native peoples and native plants in the area. Next came the Spanish land grants and the Mission System. Then present-day Huntington Beach became an area of small farms with agriculture year-round. Shipley was one of those farms at the time. Bolsa Chica became the second largest oil field in Southern California. The “Great Movement” started with people coming down from Los Angeles County in the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s; new tract homes were built to accommodate the growth. The newcomers wanted parks; Ralph and Charlene Bauer were part of that group, and they pushed for a 2/3 vote to get a 350-acre park. Part of that park-land was farmed at one time by the Huff Family (now the Shipley Nature Center). Dr. Donald Shipley (Prof. of Biology at Long Beach State) wanted something in the park to reflect what the land had been 100 years prior. Nature conservancies were welcomed to help develop the “native” park, school trips were planned, and a ranger was hired. The 18-acre site was taken care of by the ranger, but

there were no interpretive rangers. Non-native plants started popping up that shouldn't have been there. The Environmental Board took an interest, but Shipley was put on the "do without" list during the recession and the Orange County bankruptcy. As a result, Dettloff and others got together to save the Shipley Nature Center. They took over Shipley in order to keep the gates unlocked and the center open. The Friends of the Shipley Nature Center receives \$40,000 a year from the City to help run it, but the Center needs to raise the rest of the funds to maintain it.

4. Denise Ruocco was one of the original 25 people that formed the FNCS and is the Secretary of Center. She met "Ranger Dave" on a tour of the center. Ruocco addressed what Shipley looked like under Ranger Dave and why it was something valuable that needed to be saved. The then-new Friends group believed they needed to move forward with the City's restoration plan. When Ranger Dave was let go, they became a 501c3 on the fast track to help preserve the area's natural legacy. They incorporated in 2002.
5. Kay Goddard got involved in 2002. She started the compost center on site. Goddard noted that maintaining Shipley requires a public/private partnership with the City and the non-profit. She noted that it takes approximately \$100,000 a year to keep Shipley open, relying on 2 grounds people and an "anchor" person to let people in. According to Goddard, there are 77 parks in the city of Huntington Beach but no maintenance budget for the parks. The Center relies on programming, grants, and volunteers (to staff the center). Goddard is always looking for more volunteers. The Center's partnership relies on a sense of trust and strong communication system. When she was done speaking, Goddard invited the HRB to ask questions.
 - i. Wentworth, Sr. asked if HB Trees is affiliated with the Center. Goddard noted it is not the same as Shipley, but a board meets once a month that brings all of these groups together in a collaborative fashion.
 - ii. Hanson noted that the site is actually very historic even if no buildings are present. Schey built on Hanson's point. The history of California is the history of the land/environment.
 - iii. Goddard would like help from the board to help draw people in via the history of the site from the perspective of historians.
 - iv. Schey would like something for the HRB to post on our website.
 - v. Park asked if the docent tours are back on yet. Ruocco noted that they have been resumed on a limited basis by appointment only. Those interested can contact Shipley via their website for tour schedules. Park would like to collaborate sometime between the library and Shipley. Goddard noted the egrets have hatched.
 - vi. Scandura thanked the speakers. He noted that he mentioned several meetings ago about the upcoming anniversary. What can HRB do to help

celebrate 20th anniversary of the FSNC? Goddard noted she has a skeletal outline. Schey indicated that the Friends have a good sense of “their story.” It looks like they want to think about how to retell their story to reach other groups of people. The HRB could provide speakers or just help out.

- vii. Goddard is looking for opportunities to get history students to get involved. She thought about reaching out to local college students to see if they would be interested in developing historical nature-related stories. Nguyen noted that an email could be developed to send along to OCC deans to see if there are any students interested in helping in this interdisciplinary opponent.
- viii. The HRB and presenters both noted that Shipley’s history is often overlooked but provides a unique insight into the city.
- ix. Dettloff noted the all-black resort built down on Newland Street as another example of often overlooked history. A lot of our history is still hidden. Santiago pointed out that Chris Jepsen did a lot of digging around on that story and its eventual arson before it was slated to open. 1926 was when it was slated to open.
- x. Schey asked about who Shipley gets grants from. Ruocco named a few of the sources, including the Plunket Foundation, Chevron Corporation, and National Charity League, but she indicated that it is difficult to find grants for operational funding.
- xi. Schey noted that Community Services was blamed for park maintenance but it’s really Public Works money. Schey wanted to make sure the HRB knew that maintenance isn’t done by Community Services. Goddard noted that under City Manager Chi, a board was put together to incorporate all the parks (including Library, Shipley, etc.). The board is helping to allocate money and help things function better. There is hope moving forward! Dettloff noted they have to convince a whole Council as to why the funding is necessary to operate the Center.
- xii. Is another ranger proposed for the future? Goddard noted it is being worked on, but the Friends are not ready to make the proposal to City Council yet.
- xiii. Hanson noted Dettloff was mayor when he was one year old.
- xiv. Santiago asked the dates for the anniversary events. Goddard noted they haven’t been set yet, but Scandura will provide us with those as they become available. Santiago notes that people need ideas on places to go; over the course of a year during the pandemic, we’ve forgotten how to do that. Shipley offers a place for people to go and recharge. Goddard reminded the board the public can visit the Center on Saturdays 9 am – 1 pm. She noted it will be a year from now for the events.

- xv. Ruocco indicated the main event could be any time in 2022 but perhaps the most beautiful time at Shipley – April.
- xvi. Santiago asked about the Gun Club and its relation to the Huff Property and Shipley. According to Dettloff, there was no relationship between the properties, but it is a part of the overall history of Huntington Beach. Santiago noted that the man who founded the club was a Count from Poland who was friends with Madame Modjeska.
- xvii. Wysocki thanked the presenters, indicating that her scope of knowledge is basically what she experienced this evening. She is excited to check out these hidden gems that HB has to offer.
- xviii. Schey thanked the presenters for coming.

VI. Presentations: General Board Meeting

- 1. **Board Member Terms:** Schey noted that Knowles will not be a member of the HRB moving forward. She wanted to thank him for his service. Mark Zambrano will be taking over the website. Hanson asked if we need to vote for the Treasurer. Schey said that we cannot, because it needs to be agendized.
 - i. Zambrano noted he never received any of the login information.
- 2. **Design Review Board Report** – Schey indicated a piece of public art on the agenda – See Yourself in Nature. The approved design were bronze-coated cylinders meant to emulate a butterfly wing. The art piece will be placed between the Central Library and the Secret Garden. Wentworth, Sr. asked if it's bird-friendly. Schey thinks it will be too hot. Others asked about if it would be too hot to touch for kids. Schey asked about signage and the name of the public art. This will be the "iconic" art piece for the City. The DRB voted that this art piece be accepted. Santiago asked if there was discussion about vandalism. Schey didn't remember at this particular meeting, but it came up at a community focus meeting. Wentworth, Sr. asked why they went vertical with the pillars. Schey did not know. Santiago asked about light beams.
- 3. Wynoski addressed some of the comments/concerns – including the hot-to-the-touch concerns. She noted the touch will be like "The Bean" in Chicago. In regard to reflectivity, the City is hyper aware of any reflection particularly facing Goldenwest. The art piece will be treated to avoid any beams of light toward Goldenwest. Santiago noted the concave sides will concentrate the rays (and heat) of the sun (which is the opposite of the Chicago Bean).
- 4. **Board Applicants** – No new ones received.

VII. Administrative

- 1. **Fiduciary Commitments:** n/a
- 2. **Treasurer's Report:** There will no report this month.
- 3. **Staff/Council Requests for Assistance:**
 - i. n/a

- 4. Historic Photographs – Use and Recovery:** Schey noted we will eventually get to it. She's not working on it right now but will return to it in the very near future.

VIII. Committee Reports

1. Plaques: Standard Market Plaque Update

- i. Schey provided an update on the original H Item by Mr. Posey and the current situation. Schey reached out to Hayden repeatedly and the group has gone to radio silence. He has nothing else to report.

2. Demolition Reports:

- i. Schey received a demo permit for 7942 Speer Drive. Roesner checks in pretty regularly with Planning to see if there are any reports. HRB has 45 days to complete the report.

3. Planning:

- i. Scandura stated there was not much to report from the Planning Commission. There is a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday. The last one was May 11th. Scandura congratulated Hanson, Schey, Zambrano, and Duane Wentworth on Council's 6-0 vote in favor of their reappointments on the HRB.
- ii. Hanson asked Scandura what the process will be for replacing board members appointed by Ortiz when he vacates his Council seat. It will be up to the new council member.
- iii. There will be another online workshop on the housing element on June 26th at 6 pm.

4. Research: n/a

5. Oral History Project: n/a.

- i. Schey would like to interview Charlene Bauer and Dave Wickersham.

6. School Outreach:

- i. Nothing new to report with summer approaching.
- ii. Nguyen never heard back from Oka Elementary.

7. Information and Outreach:

- i. Surf City Nights: Wentworth, Sr. noted there is no word what the downtown situation looks like. He has not been contacted by the bid people, but they know our desired location. Wysocki said she will try and find out where the outdoor restaurant situation stands. Santiago suggested maybe they are trying to let restaurants make up for lost business. Schey asked if the HRB was offered an alternate spot. Are there other places worth having (Schey asked) if we can't get our spot back?
- ii. 1,847+ Likes on Facebook reported by Wentworth, Sr.

8. Future Programming:

- i. Schey would like the board to think about ways that we can work with Shipley.

- ii. Schey noted the History Months – Women’s History Month (Women Volunteers)

IX. **Member Comments:**

1. Hanson asked if we are meeting in person next month. Wysocki doesn’t see why we couldn’t. We might be able to do hybrid. Schey noted that has been her goal the whole time. Hanson is happy to hear that.
2. Hanson noted which meetings he attended within the last month and upcoming meetings. Hanson doesn’t have information on Mr. William Paxson’s memorial service.
3. Hanson has a concern and wants to note that he hopes there will be no Zoom meetings in the future. This was a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, and he doesn’t want Zoom to become the norm. Schey and others pointed out that the US has actually dealt with other pandemics.
4. Scandura pointed out that at the City Council meeting the clerk’s office showed video from the 1976 4th of July Parade (Schey provided the Clerk with that material). Schey indicated that the film was 1 film digitized under the California Reveal digitizing project the first year of funding. The City of HB received funding the second and third year, too. Nguyen asked if the digitized content is on the California Online Archive yet. Schey noted note yet. She suggested people go to California Revealed for access.

X. **Future Agenda Items:**

1. Hanson would like to talk about inviting council persons to future meetings. He would like to discuss it in August or later. Schey suggested we do that anyway so that we can settle in first. She would like to invite our liaisons first.

XI. **Meeting adjourned** at 7:02 pm. Santiago motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Wentworth, Sr. seconded. All present approved. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st. B-7.