

Historic Resources Board

Minutes July 21, 2021

I. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

1. Meeting in B-7 at City Hall
2. Meeting called to order at 5:03 PM by Chair Schey.
3. Roll call was taken: Chair Schey, David Wentworth, Sr., Amory Hanson, Sue Nguyen (by zoom), Mark Zambrano (by Zoom), Duane Wentworth, and Joe Santiago excused absent. Library liaison Michelle Roesner present. Ashley Wysocki (Zoom), Deputy Director for Community and Library Services present. Steven Park (Zoom) present via zoom.
4. John Scandura present.

II. **Welcome and Introduction**

1. Hanson's, Amy Hanson, mother present.

III. **Public Comments**

1. n/a

IV. **Consent Calendar**

1. **Approval of Minutes**

- i. The June 2021 HRB minutes were approved with changes. 8.9 – “Santiago pointed out that Chris Jepsen” and not Epting. Needs to be changed. Important Jepsen get the recognition he deserves. Santiago motioned for approval and Mark Zambrano 2nd. All present approved.

V. **Presentations: General Board Meeting**

1. **Board Member Terms:** n/a
2. **Design Review Board Report** – Schey indicated the meeting for this month has been cancelled.
3. **Board Applicants** – No new applications received. Schey suggested we reach out if anyone is interested. She suggested reaching back out to Sunset Beach, too, now that we are “back open.” Hanson said he could go speak to them. Scandura noted he can put a plug in at the Planning Commission.

VI. **Administrative**

1. **Fiduciary Commitments:** n/a
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Knowles is no longer on the HRB; we don't know who is taking over the Treasurer's position even temporarily. Schey indicated what is involved with being HRB treasurer. Hanson asked if another officer could hold the Treasurer position, too. Michelle Roesner currently has all bank-related materials. Hanson thinks it should be on the agenda until the position is filled.
3. **Staff/Council Requests for Assistance:**
 - i. Block 417 naming may come up again in the future but not at the present time.

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 near future, particularly now that we are "back in business" in person.

VII. Committee Reports

1. Plaques:

- i. We will have to ask another point-person to take on the plaque requests, because that was under Ronn Knowles' purview.
- ii. Standard Market Plaque: no further word or discussion.

2. Demolition Reports:

- i. Santiago noted he hadn't seen any reports since last month. Santiago did mention the Speer Drive house which is a craftsman; it wasn't Marion Speer's personal home. Santiago noted there are 3 older homes in a row (one of which needs a demo report). The same family that owned the property of the Navigation Center also owned the house on Speer Drive. A Japanese American family by the name of Yamata. Hanson asked who the Speer family was. He was a collector of western items and articles on the History of the West. Santiago noted that the Speer family's history in Huntington Beach went farther back than Marion Speer. Chris Jepson did a lot of research on Speer at one point in time.

3. Planning:

- i. See Scandura's comments below.

4. Research: n/a

5. Oral History Project: n/a

- i. Hanson asked if we would choose a new point person for the oral histories. Schey explained the oral history foundation with the community going back about ten years. Nguyen noted she can hang on to the material until others are ready to use it. With two young children at home, she is not sure she can dedicate the time right now.

6. School Outreach:

- i. Nothing new to report with summer here.

7. Information and Outreach:

- i. Surf City Nights: Wentworth, Sr. noted no new news. He needs to recontact the organizers about the bid for our old spot back. Hanson noted the City had originally planned Labor Day to remove outdoor dining on Main Street.
- ii. 1,855+ Likes on Facebook reported by Wentworth, Sr.
- iii. Zambrano has agreed to manage our website. Schey suggested we post more on our website. Santiago noted that's why it's important to get the photographs back.

8. Future Programming:

- i. Schey would like to invite more guests to the HRB meetings. She also noted that we have other city boards that we can reach out to and build bridges.
- ii. Scandura asked about reaching out to Mr. Epting. Schey explained the relationship between the board and Epting. Scandura also suggested reaching out to Connie Mandic (on Planning Commission), in part because of her influence with saving the silos, etc.

VIII. Member Comments:

1. Hanson is happy to be here in person.
2. Scandura noted the Planning Commission was dark for a couple of months. The first meeting was held last week.
 - i. **Item 1:** Huntington Harbor gas station and some opposition to liquor sales. The applicant asked for a continuance, and the topic will be brought up next week. Schey addressed the liquor issue, noting that stores in the area sell alcohol. Santiago said they might be concerned to repeat downtown issues. Scandura noted that although the market is 24/7, there would be a time limit on when alcohol could be sold.
 - ii. **Item 2:** Two vacant lots behind the Chevron gas station on York and Beach. Two vacant lots. GM Oil bought the small lot and suggested a mini mart (no alcohol). When the Parcel Map is looked at, it shows the two parcels going under Beach Blvd to the median. The Planning Commission wondered what happened, and research indicated that the property did front Beach Blvd. back in the day. As the state expanded Beach Blvd, they must have taken an easement. A small house was on the lot but demolished a number of years ago. Scandura noted that this situation demonstrates the history of dividing and sub-dividing parcels, particularly near highways, and the challenges it raises for setbacks and such. Adjacent owners are needed to consolidate their parcels. How do you put portable housing with such small sub-divided properties. Schey noted it was a long time before Beach Blvd. was “anything” in HB. Scandura noted Cal Trans in 1950 plan had Beach Blvd. as a freeway.
3. Wentworth, Sr. asked Scandura about housing going in at Yorktown and Beach. Scandura reminded the board that 3-4 years ago, the State sued the City over the city’s housing element. That dragged out in court for a while. The City’s housing element became de-certified as a result. The City needed funds to build the homeless shelter, but couldn’t get state funds because of the de-certification. As part of settlement to get state funding again, the City agreed to affordable housing needed to go in (the current-furniture store). Nguyen asked if it included the former dental office practice on the corner. Scandura thinks it is L-shaped and does not include that property. They are still waiting on the application.

4. Santiago bought a property in Pioneer Town near Joshua Tree, to rescue the Letterman House. It took some time, because there was "Covid red tape." His property went under the highway and past the median. The State is now taking an easement, but no one had taken note before.
5. Zambrano noted that Rick "Fig" Fignetti passed away. A number of other well-known locals passed away within the last few months as well. Zambrano noted it will be interesting to see what happens to his surf shop, and that it would be sad to see it go. Schey thinks a story on Fig and his legacy would be good for HBTv. Santiago asked Zambrano if he knew Sean Price. He created the Surf Beat for the Sports Page for the OC Register back in the day (now a freelance writer). Santiago suggested he would be a good hookup for Zambrano.
6. Schey noted her recent experience with the Discovery Channel – they will be filming tomorrow. They are filming about the murder of a local Chinese immigrant resident. Lyn Semeta will be filmed tomorrow morning talking about the City. Mr. Jue was followed home and killed. Schey noted she reached out to Nguyen looking for an academic perspective on race relations during the era (1989). Seeing as this is not her area of expertise, Nguyen reached out to OCC colleagues and GoldenWest faculty, but she hasn't had any luck yet.
7. HB resident Caroline Canode reached out, suggesting that the City needs a museum. Schey invited her to come speak at the HRB meeting. She would like to encourage an interest in the diverse history of the City. Scandura noted the Main Street library was looked at a while back for a history museum. Schey said there is a photograph display but not much more due to questions of climate control, etc. Schey doesn't think taking up library space is the way to go.
8. Schey would also like to invite Knowles back to say thank you.
9. Hanson introduced his mother. She is a professor at Chapman University and has utilized Zambrano's book in her classes.

IX. Future Agenda Items:

1. Need to fill the HRB's Treasurer position
2. Future Programming
3. Sub-committees – see if they still make sense or if they should be reevaluated
4. New ideas for new members

- X. Meeting adjourned** at 6:12 pm. Hanson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Santiago seconded. All present approved. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18th.