

AVCA Meeting Minutes

**Location: Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Ave
Monday, September 11, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

Meeting Guests of Note

Stephanie Holm, Community Relations Coordinator for Nancy
Monica Heger, Staff Writer for the Almaden Resident
SJ Historic Preservation Officer Sally Zarnowitz

Speaker: SJ Historic Preservation Officer Sally Zarnowitz

Subject: Historic Designation of San Jose/Almaden Property

Sally was invited to speak about how the City Landmarks are determined and who may apply for landmark status.

A City landmark must have some level of historic significance, using the standards written by the U.S. Department of the Interior. There are currently 135 Registered City Landmarks and 3,500 other sites identified. One or more qualified persons do an evaluation. Both the state and the city use national criteria, including a period of significance and integrity. The city's general plan contains the urban conservation strategy, and the City Landmarks Commission maintains the inventory. There is an environmental review that oversees historic resources. The city ordinance is one from 1975, and is need of updating. There are financial incentives through the Mills Act for city and county tax reductions in addition to some federal tax savings.

Sally discussed the difference between a historic district and a landmark. The decision to identify a district is less stringent than when applying for a historic landmark. Art asked how one could help the city identify potential landmarks and identified several candidates. Sally referred him to the Application form on the city web site. When asked by Kitty, she explained that the Preservation Action Council is not a city or county organization. They are a group of citizens who are interested in preserving historic sites.

Officer/Director Meeting – A quorum was present.

Officers

Lee Dimmitt, Present
Ray Strong, Present
Gari Soulé, Present
Lisa Wiseman, Absent

Directors

Kitty Monahan, Present
Pat McMahan, Present
Ron Blake, Present
Art Boudreault, Present

Secretary's Report – Approved without change

Treasurer's Report – There was a question about the line entry: Reserve for Prepaid Dues for 2006. Was this funds that should be reflected in Dues received in 2006? Approved without change.

Communications:

Web Site report: Linda passed out statistics for both July and August. While the number of visits declined in August compared to July, the visits increased most 100% from year to year.

Almaden E Loop report: Lee Dimmitt. 417 addresses, 64% were read = 260.

Old Business:

AVCA Donations Fund: Pat McMahan suggested that the AVCA develop a policy concerning use of funds. Lee requested a motion from the floor prior to a discussion on the following three ideas concerning use of excess funds. When no motion was made, no discussion ensued on the topics listed.

Possible Historical Marker at Feed and Fuel location
Library general (Value Line subscription at library)
Scholarship: Kitty Monahan

Mayoral Forum Update: Lee Dimmitt reported that the candidates for mayor were not going to participate in as many forums. AVCA has paired with the VEP to jointly sponsor the debate on October 11th, 7:00 PM at Gunderson High School. The role of AVCA is limited to providing publicity on our web site and in e-mailing the notice to members. In addition to the mayoral candidates, the two candidates for the Water Board will also speak.

District Attorney Forum: The DA candidates have been invited and will appear to talk at the October 16th AVCA meeting.

Noise Pollution from the library: Mike Mirizzi spoke of his concerns with the high level of noise pollution emanating from the air conditioning chillers on the roof of the library. Stephanie Holm has promised that the city engineer and the contractor will meet before the end of September. The noise level has been measured on Little Falls St and other areas surrounding the library and reported to be higher than acceptable levels. Stephanie also reported that one chiller is noisier than the others. It is likely that the problem is mechanical. Mike reports that it is less noisy when the weather is cool. (:>)) One visitor expressed her opinion on how to purchase and install air conditioners that are quiet.

Camden Avenue Dirt Strip: Stephanie Holm said that no one at the city has accepted responsibility for the strip. The jurisdiction might be City Parks, City Transportation or the San Jose Water Company. One concern from Parks is that there is an ordinance requiring that when a tree is removed, the city is required to plant three more at that time. Pat expressed concern that they were projecting far into the future and if more trees are required, this is probably good. Stephanie promised a proposal for some ideas on how to beautify the strip would be available at our next meeting.

District 10 Liaison Report – Stephanie Holm:

Refuse - Street Pickup Inadequacies: There is no plan to change the contract with the current Garbage companies to require better pick up methods. Stephanie will report back on any possible action that could be taken when the contract changes hands in 2007. Some AVCA members suggested that the city require green waste bins rather than offering them as options.

Via Valiente: After meeting with the owners, Stephanie expects this shopping center to improve its façade etc. Nancy Pyle is preparing a report for a pilot project to provide redevelopment funds to shopping centers outside the current jurisdiction of the redevelopment agency. If approved, the pilot project would be implemented in District 10.

New Business:

Potential South Almaden project: This is off McKean Road with borders adjacent to the New Almaden Historic District. The city has no plan to allow development of this 680-acre site. Elements are: a plan to subdivide the 680-acre tract into separate 42-acre lots. The city will not provide water or sewer. This plot has no existing road access, either from McKean Road or Bertram Road. The Planning Commission has turned down the developer's plan. The developers have petitioned the city council to reverse the Planning Commission decision. No action by the AVCA is planned.

Announcements:

The next AVCA meeting will be held on Monday, October 16th (normally it would be October 9th, but the Almaden Library/Community Center will be closed that day, Columbus Day.) at the Almaden Library/Community Center, starting at 7:00 PM. Speakers are the candidates for District Attorney, Dolores A. Carr and Karyn Sinunu. Information about these candidates may be found at this web site <http://www.smartvoter.org/2006/06/06/ca/scl/race/4420/>

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.