



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

HISTORIC WINTERSBURG PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017 6 p.m.

Attendance:

Council Members: Council Member Jill Hardy (absent), Council Member Erik Peterson (absent)

Chair Mary Urashima, **Committee Members** Barbara Haynes, Dennis Masuda, Dave Wentworth, Mark Bixby, Ernie Nishii (excused absence), Kanji Sahara (excused absence), Rebecca Nehez (excused absence), Dann Gibb (excused absence), Miguel Zamudio, Art Hasegawa (excused absence), Frankie Edeza (absent)

Advisory: Krista Nicholds (Preserve Orange County)

Guests: Michael Conroy, Ocean View School Districts; Michelle Gale-Nelson, City of Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force; Paul Scotton, Sachiko Sakai, and Hector Neff, California State University Long Beach.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Urashima opened the meeting at 6:03 pm and asked for Task Force members and guests to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes for July 20, 2017

Motion by Bixby, second by Haynes. Approved unanimously with no revisions.

Discussion regarding role and responsibilities of Task Force members

Chair Urashima discussed the responsibilities of Task Force in relation to meetings and events. She asked Task Force members to not participate in anything negative on social media groups and to comply with the City's Declaration of Human Dignity. She stated that if it is found a Task Force member participates in activity of this type, it is grounds for removal from the Task Force.

Financial: Preservation fund balance: \$16,055.05

- a. Prior balance: \$16,632.00
- b. Expenditure of \$576.95 for duplication of exhibit materials for Hometown Teams (Smithsonian exhibit at Heritage Museum of Orange County); Heritage Museum will cover cost for the September 9 movie night (screen and concessions).

OLD BUSINESS:

CSULB archaeology survey proposal:

Paul Scotton, California State University Long Beach (CSULB), provided an overview of the proposal by CSULB to conduct archaeological field survey of the Historic Wintersburg property as part of curriculum for upper level archaeology students. He provided an official letter for the research proposal. Hector Neff, CSULB, clarified that there will be no cost to the City, the Task Force, or the property owner. He added that the archaeological survey is noninvasive and explained the types of equipment or techniques that can be utilized.

Chair Urashima explained there is some information documenting location of goldfish ponds, some facilities such as onsite wells, and some features that can be identified through archival

photographs that can help, as well as the ALTA survey. She also explained that Republic Services has to provide permission for access to the property and the survey. Chair Urashima also requested a letter from the CSULB president to confirm the university's support for the property owner and City. Sachiko Sakai, CSULB, stated that professors would be on the property with the upper level students at all times, supervising and directing the work.

Chair Urashima explained the request would be made of Republic Services, in addition to informing the City Council liaisons.

Vandalism / tagging at Historic Wintersburg:

Following up on prior notification and discussion by the Task Force, Chair Urashima informed that the request to whitewash the blotchy paint area on the 1934 Wintersburg Japanese Church building, as well as clean up weeds and trash along the exterior fence line, was declined by Republic Services. The Task Force received community complaints, and has received offers of paint and volunteer assistance.

Targeted harassment:

Chair Urashima provided an update on the ongoing online harassment which began in February 2016. Since that time, two police reports have been filed and there are ongoing updates provided to HBPD. Chair Urashima requested everyone be watchful and alert each other, but to not participate.

Site condition:

There have been community complaints regarding the condition of the property and the overgrowth. This concern has been relayed to the property owner, with an offer to assist with volunteer or donated professional services, as was done in 2016, at no cost to Republic Services. The concern has not been addressed and Republic Services has not responded. The Task Force is aware there has been contact with Code Enforcement requesting weed abatement to reduce fire risk for neighbors and the adjacent school. Code Enforcement contacted the chair and advised that weed abatement is being conducted as of this date.

An additional issue raised by the community was water ponding at the intersection of Belsito and Emerald streets. A resident complained and thought the water was coming from the Historic Wintersburg property. Public works advised it is not coming from the Historic Wintersburg property and likely coming from the school. Public works said they would attempt to create a temporary fix, but that Belsito is not a City-owned street. Michael Conroy, Ocean View School District, said he would investigate the issue. Chair Urashima thanked Mr. Conroy for his action.

Status of discussions with Republic Services and the City of Huntington Beach:

Chair Urashima reminded of the presentation provided to the City Council on July 17, which is archived on the City website. She stated the Trust for Public Land is waiting on a response from Republic Services regarding the property assessment, having met with them and provided information and documents to proceed, as of the last week of May 2017.

Public outreach and education:

Chair Urashima updated the Task Force on upcoming public outreach activities:

- Joint exhibit with Smithsonian Institute at Heritage Museum of Orange County, "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America", August 19 – September 30. The exhibit is now open, Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm.
- Film screening 6 pm, Saturday, September 9, at Heritage Museum of Orange County as part of "Hometown Teams" exhibit. Volunteer assignments to be discussed.
- Discussion for Dia los Muertos, Saturday, November 4, Oak View community. An event to honor ancestors (Task Force invited to participate).

- Planning for “Holidays in Huntington Beach 1917” with Huntington Beach Historical Society (December 1 or 8, 2017 at Newland House Museum). Dennis Masuda advised he will be out of town on December 8 and that December 1 is preferred (he provides the tents and lighting). Task Force members agreed that December 1 is better also to avoid conflicts with other holiday events in December.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting date is tentatively set for 6 pm, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017.