

CITY OF COSTA MESA
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes for Thursday, August 14, 2014

PRESENT: Dave Gardner, Gary Parkin, Christopher Ganiere, Karen McKenna-Juergens, Mary Ellen Goddard, Melinda Lowery, Margy Johnston, Terry Shaw and Pam Crenshaw

ABSENT: Alternate John McQueen and George Nakai

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McPherson and Travis Karlen

COUNCIL MEMBER: Wendy Leece (absent)

CALL TO ORDER

Christopher called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF July 10, 2014 minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Melinda; seconded by Terry; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Historical Site Markers

- Margy informed the Committee about the Costa Mesa Bird and Game Farm (aka Eighmey's Bird & Game Farm) located at 2060 Newport Blvd.

- 1st opened in January 1924 by Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Chamness and William Paterson, who took sole possession in 1925.
 - Patterson traveled to Mexico, South America, India, and Africa, to purchase tropical animals and birds, including macaws, caries, parakeets, parrots, finches, cockatiel, pheasants, monkeys, turtles, and tropical fish.
 - One acre aviary attracted “thousands of visitors”.
 - Patterson established a breeding program and sold birds and animals to Southern California zoos, as well as to the public.
 - Bought by M. G. Eighmey in 1927, who continued business and expanded to include breeding off fresh water fish from South America, Africa, and South Sea islands.
 - Two popular attractions were: Jackie, a talking Indian Mynah (sold in 1932), and Lucy, an African monkey who enjoyed playing with a bell and a ball.
 - Sold in 1946 by Florence Eighmey (daughter). Site became a trailer park.
 - Christopher showed the committee a photo of the Welbourne marker placed in the sidewalk.
2. Old newspaper clipping project
 - The Committee reviewed and discussed the “introduction” paragraph for the webpage - *The human condition is ever changing, but very much the same. Please enjoy these compilations of stories from our city’s past that reveal the recurring themes of life*”.
 - Christopher will ask John to bring a clean version of the final first news clipping to the September meeting for the Committee to approval.
 3. Identify Costa Mesa Notable Residents
 - Karen will email Travis an updated list for Travis to email out to the Committee for them to review and discuss at the September meeting.
 4. Research “Then and Now Buildings”
 - Pam passed about old photo’s she had researched at the Historical Society.
 - The Committee will discuss which photo’s to include in the project and how to publish the photo’s at the September meeting.

5. Historical Society Partnership
 - Lisa informed the Committee that the Historical Society can pick up their donation check of \$750 after noon on Friday, August 15.
6. New Ideas
 - Mary Ellen suggested that the Committee become more involved in preserving places or streets in the City. Travis will speak to the Development Service Department on how the Committee can become more involved.
 - The Committee will add the new ideas from the June meeting and being more involved with preserving places and streets when the Committee discuss the 2015 goals at the November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- Melinda – Informed everyone that they can purchase the “Early Costa Mesa” book (written by Mary Ellen and Art Goddard) at the Historical Society
- The Historical Society event
 - September 21 at 2pm guest speaker Charles Epting speaking on “New Deals in OC”
 - October 19 at 2pm guest speaker Mary F Adams Urashima speaking on “Wintersburg Village’s”

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

- Travis Karlen – Lisa introduced Recreation Manager Travis Karlen who will be the Committee’s Liaison.
- Signs of Support – Lisa informed the Committee that **\$24,844.20** was available in signs of support funds
- Lisa thanked the Committee for the seven years of hard work, dedication and commitment to preserving the history of Costa Mesa. She encourage the Committee to continue the great work and she will miss the Committee dearly.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. located in City Hall Conference Room.

