

Orinda Library  
Community Center  
Room 7  
28 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563



City of Orinda  
22 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
www.cityoforinda.org

## **HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **March 21, 2017**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 3:07 PM  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Bobbie Landers (chair), Tania DeGroot, Alison Burns, Laurie Smith, Bill Waterman  
STAFF PRESENT: Daisy Allen, Associate Planner  
GUEST PRESENT: Inga Miller, City Council
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Agenda approved.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 13, 2016 minutes approved with no changes.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM:** Laurie asked about bridges and walls being landmarked and Bobbie said she has wanted to do that for years. The 1920 bridge at Orinda Way/Camino Pablo is already landmarked. Bill mentioned original rock culverts and Daisy thought it would be difficult to make findings for historic landmark designations for individual culverts.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Joaquin Moraga Adobe**

The design for the restoration for the Joaquin Moraga Adobe was approved by Planning Commission on February 28, 2017. The architect is Garibaldi. The HLC did not review the plan before it went to Commission because per Section 17.25.16 of the Orinda Municipal Code the HLC does not review landmark improvement plans for resources which have already been landmarked. With the approved design, J&J Ranch LLC will be restoring the Adobe building to its pre-1940's look and adding parking as well as an accessory building with a restroom and storage and parking. The design is assuming that the Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe purchase the parcel. If the Friends do not purchase the parcel, the accessory building is not required.

Bobbie mentioned that design review for historical landmarked areas in Oakland must go back to the HLC before review by Planning Commission. Daisy to look into state historic building code to see whether HLC review for landmark improvement plans is included in that code.

## **B. Railroad Trestle Post at Senior Village and Cleary Lamp Post**

Daisy is checking with Finance Department on usual financing is for a plaque, in particular whether it is okay to use money from the city's General Fund for a small plaque. Bobbie suggested composite instead of metal. The material needs to weather well. Laurie will call Terry Murphy at the Orinda Historical Society.

## **C. Orinda Theatre Historic Landmark Designation**

Bill presented a possible email that he would send to Julie Davis, representative owner of the Orinda Theatre property regarding potential landmarking of that property. The email suggests placement of a plaque at the theatre. The group was in support of this idea and suggested a few edits to the email.

## **D. BART Wayfinding Project**

Daisy reported that the city had restarted the project under project manager Daniel Chavarria (Associate Engineer). The city plans to bid out the project in the next couple of months with construction planned in the summer. The city is simultaneously working on the ADA ramp from Theatre Square and will not construct both projects at the same time. Alison has a photo of the old Orinda school (current community center), she brought 4 originals from the Historical Society. Additionally, Bill Simpson donated a photo of the community park and at this point the city has all required photographs to accompany the text on the wayfinding totems.

## **E. Orinda Village**

We talked about the potential for historic landmarking in the Village area. The Phairs building, 1920 bridge and Orinda Community Center are the only current landmarks in the Village. The group discussed additional buildings for consideration: the Antique Shop (first Orinda firehouse), Orinda Motor's (former Orinda Riding Academy) and Casa Verana (now an office building at the corner of Orinda Way/Camino Pablo). Daisy has information on property ownership. Alison thought to ask the Rotary and Bill suggested the Chamber of Commerce and thought about having a meeting to introduce the property owners to each other. Before the group moves forward with this idea, Daisy will check on any Brown Act restrictions related to this type of meeting.

The Urban Land Institute was hired by the city to meet with stakeholder groups and conduct a two-day intensive design charrette regarding the future of Orinda's downtown. ULI will be presenting ideas on April 11<sup>th</sup> for revitalizing the downtown. The HLC would like to send a letter to ULI and to the City Council expressing that the plan for downtown should address issues of historic significance of buildings especially in the Village. Daisy will ask the Planning Director the best way to prepare and submit this letter. A special committee meeting may be necessary. Tania said that we could stress that we are open to all levels of restoration (preservation, renovation, and adaptive reuse). We at least would like to preserve the building

facades.

**F. Yellow House (209 Moraga Way)**

Bobbie will ask James Wright to landmark his home, or any part, and tell him that it would not cost him anything. He has recently updated the color to the original color after finding old samples.

**G. Inclusion of “History” in Design Review Standards**

Bobbie feels that others need to be aware of our history. The face of Orinda is historic compared to Lafayette and Moraga. We can sell that as a community and it could be our theme. Daisy said that design review has four basic standards for home and business remodels, neighborhood, design, privacy and landscape, but no standard to address the historical aspect especially in tear downs and rebuilds. We would need to change the municipal code by going through the city council or the design guidelines for homes. It was noted that it is challenging to impose regulations on neighborhoods that have HOAs; also the group would need to consider exactly what would be reviewed in standards or guidelines: styles and/or age of buildings, neighborhoods/downtown special districts, etc.

- 7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- 8. **OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS:** None.
- 9. **ADJOURNMENT:** 5:07 PM  
Respectfully submitted, Laurie Smith

The next regular Historic Landmarks Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in the Sarge Littlehale Room at City Hall (22 Orinda Way).