

Absent:

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD MEETING MINUTES: June 13, 2019

City Hall/City Council Chambers 250 Hamilton Avenue

8:30 A.M.

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Chair Bower, Vice Chair Corey, Board Member Kohler, Board Member Shepherd, Present:

Board Member Bernstein, Board Member Makinen, Board Member Wimmer

Chair Bower: Okay, I'm assuming Margaret is stuck in traffic, so we can begin the meeting. I see the light's on, so would you please read the roll, Robin.

Ms. Robin Ellner: Four present.

Chair Bower: Thank you.

[The Board moved to Agenda Changes, Additions and Deletions]

Oral Communications

Chair Bower: Okay, oral communications. I don't see anyone here besides Bo, who we're going to hear from in a moment.

[The Board moved to City Official Reports]

Agenda Changes, Additions and Deletions

Chair Bower: Are there any changes to the agenda?

[The Board moved to Oral Communications]

City Official Reports

Ms. Ellner: None.

1. Historic Resources Board Schedule of Meetings and Assignments.

Chair Bower: So, we will move on to Official Reports, which is our schedule of meetings. I will now be available on June 27th, should a meeting occur, because my trip was cancelled.

Ms. Amy French, Chief Planning Official: Can I ask a question about August 22nd? Is that trip of yours still on?

Chair Bower: Yeah, it's still, it is for now.

Ms. French: I can't say lucky you, but maybe (crosstalk). We do have an item targeted for that date, and we do have, we did have an item targeted for July 11th, which was going to be the – it's probably not going to go, I would say, is the Cannery/Fry's Historic Resource evaluation.

Chair Bower: That's going to go after that goes to Planning or?

Ms. French: Well, no. We do still plan to bring that to the HRB for discussion. It's just that some of these NVCAP meetings have been cancelled, and there's other, you know, other reasons why it's delayed, so...

Chair Bower: Okay.

Ms. French: That may push to September. So, I don't know that we're going to have a meeting in July. I think it wouldn't be the end of the world, right? It's a nice month to take a break and a vacation.

(off mic)

Chair Bower: Right, so you know.

Ms. French: You're going to be gone, yeah. So, I do have that Shepherd is gone for the second meeting of July.

Vice Chair Corey: I will be out the 8th of August if we have a meeting that day, a well.

Ms. French: Okay, let's not have a meeting that day. Since we're looking at the 22nd for...(crosstalk) and I'll just say that's the targeted date for the Castilleja Draft Environmental Impact Report presentation to the Historic Resources Board. The week before it will be presented to the Planning and Transportation Commission, where folks will have, you know, a night meeting to make all the comments and more of the comments, but here we will be focused on the Cultural Resource Chapter and the Historic Resource evaluation for that project. Okay. (crosstalk)

Study Session

2. Guest Speaker Bo Crane Presents 'Ticket to Rock' Booklet Regarding Palo Alto Rock History.

Chair Bower: So, we can move to our Study Session. So, I'd like to introduce Bo Crane who is going to talk to us about the book that he's written called 'Ticket to Ride. Bo is a member of the Palo Alto Stanford Heritage Group. He's also a member of Palo Alto Historic Association. I think that's what PAHA stands for. I'm a Board Member with Bo and past, so intimately familiar with this, but Bo, please join us at the...

Board Member Kohler: I probably have to...

88 (unknown speaker): Disclose.

90 Board Member Kohler: Yeah.

Mr. Bo Crane: I can stand.

Board Member Kohler: I should disclose that I live two doors from the speaker, Bo.

Chair Bower: From Bo.

Board Member Kohler: Yeah, I just want to make sure, you know, for the record, yes.

Mr. Crane: Okay. Thank you, Board for having me. Thank you, Amy, for inviting me. I met with Amy in her office and we talked about the book. It's actually called 'Ticket to Rock', which is a spin on 'Ticket to Ride'. David has 'Ticket to Ride' in mind because that's how, I had that as a typo. It's supposed to be 'Ticket to Rock'. We, the Palo Alto, Stanford Heritage, of which I'm the secretary, we had a meeting. We were deciding what other historical things can we include in our organization, other than just architecture, and we came up with people, with Rock and Roll people. And we were going to do a map of the homes of different Rock players in Palo Alto, but they're so far scattered about, from North Palo Alto to South Palo Alto, too far for a walking tour. We're not about to have show buses. So, instead, we identified the homes and we include a map of where they are, if people want to tour them and we have them listed house by house number. But then we thought that, should we contact the owners of these homes and let them know, Grace Slick lived in your house, Jerry Garcia lived in your house. Something that may have been a surprise to them. And at that point we thought, well, rather than put the burden on them to say yes or now, we identified the neighborhoods, when was the tract developed. A lot of these were Eichler's in the 50's. Cubberly was developed in the 50's. We did identify one house, which was sold last year by DeLeon Realty on 1012 High Street, and it's where Jerry Garcia picked the name Grateful Dead. It's 1012 High Street. It was advertised as the house where the Grateful Dead name was chosen. They have a plague on the wall, the Grateful Dead had been the Warlocks. The plaque on the wall that says the Warlocks is part of the advertising if you go on site. Amy, for a while had a panicked look and went through her notes and said, "oh, it's right there in the disclosure." So, my point in bringing all this up is that we're starting to get to where historic personages and peoples' memory, are in peoples' memory, and these things may affect your decisions. The other big Rock and Roll star, who I consider big, is Grace Slick. She came here from Highland Park near Chicago. She moved into, her family moved into a house that was built in 1946, older than 50 years, not very historic. It's on a block, a block off of Channing, and when the time comes, if that house gets identified as people want to do something, it's a two story, it's in good shape. That would probably undoubtedly be something for the Board to consider, just like they included the fact that the Grateful Dead name choosing house was included in the information about that house. They did add a two story to that house. The porch remains as it was back when the Grateful Dead name was chosen. They were, the Warlocks were practicing on the porch and they, Jerry Garcia went inside and found a dictionary, folklore dictionary, stuck his finger in on the Grateful Dead, and they became the Grateful Dead. So, this is our booklet. There's several Rock and Rollers here, Again, it's about their neighborhoods, who they are, their biographies and it's being marketed for sale now by the Palo Alto, Stanford Heritage, otherwise known as PAST. So, that's my talk. Are there any questions?

Board Member Shepherd: So, we just go on the PAST website and we can order it? How do we buy it?

Mr. Crane: You can buy it through, you can contact the PAST site, P-A-S-T. It's \$10 and we're going to get the marketing information out. But it will be on the PAST website. We're getting another – this first one has pretty much sold out. I do have some with me today. The first issue was \$5. If you would like one, I will, David can talk to you afterwards. He's a PAST Member and he can sell you his copy and I'll give him back one.

Board Member Shepherd: So, Bo, are there plans to interpret some of this at the Palo Alto History Museum?

Mr. Crane: We may be occupying a space at the Palo Alto History Museum. I gave a talk at the Palo Alto Historical Association on June 5th, as David mentioned. So, they're also involved with this booklet, not in the publication, but in the presentation. And lot of us are joint past and PAHA members.

Chair Bower: Anything else?

Mr. Crane: Well, thank you for inviting me this morning and good luck with the Board. Thank you for serving.

Chair Bower: Thanks Bo. It's a, I know how hard you worked on this, and it was, it is a really important treasure that we now have as part of our Palo Alto history, so I appreciate your doing that.

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152 153 Mr. Crane: You're very welcome. I'm happy that I'm a native Palo Alton, and this was exciting for me as well.

157 Chair Bower: That's right. Bo was a graduate of Paly High School.

Mr. Crane: Yeah, Waterchase, Jordan, Paly, then...

161 Chair Bower: Stanford.

163 Mr. Crane: Across El Camino.

165 Chair Bower: Right.

Board Member Shepherd: And I recently learned that Grace Slick went to Castilleja.

Mr. Crane: Yeah, Grace Slick, she was a sophomore at Paly. She then transferred to Castilleja. I haven't found the reason, but she transferred to Castilleja. There's a picture of her year book photo from Castilleja, and her younger brother was at Paly, a senior when I was a sophomore.

Chair Bower: And I presume that if someone stumbles upon your, this presentation in some archive and has other musicians or people in the music business who we have not seen, that you'd welcome their contacting you to add.

Mr. Crane: Yeah, as everybody knows, a lot about at least one person in here who has contacted me. There're people among us who have also toured Europe as musicians. I won't name any names, but there's – so people are connected one way or another with music.

Chair Bower: Yeah. Okay, well great. Thank you very much.

Board Member Kohler: Oh, he's talking about bands? Is that what you're saying, musical bands?

Mr. Crane: Yes, we have bands and individuals.

187 Board Member Kohler: You didn't get my band in.

Mr. Crane: And Roger Kohler himself was...

Chair Bower: No, we didn't include garage bands.

Board Member Kohler: I played in a band for 10 years, yeah.

Mr. Crane: There's a lot of high school bands...

Board Member Kohler: Our favorite people who loved us... Let's see, my mind is now working. We used to play at the...

Mr. Crane: There were a lot of Rock and Roll bands. The Beatles came to the Cabana in 1965. That was a huge thing. I was here then. Roger was already playing music by then, so the Rock and Roll band for the Beatles really set it off. Just to elaborate a little bit more, they played at the Cow Palace, Ken Kesey and his group went to the Cow Palace. They were blown away by all the hoopla and the noise and the screaming. But he later had his own concerts called Acid Tests. He knew Jerry Garcia from the days of Menlo Park and he got Garcia's band to play at the Acid Test. So, here you had the Beatles at the Cabana in '65, August, the Acid Test at the Big B, which was a nightclub near San Antonio and 101 in December. So, you had the British Invasion, pop music, and then four months later and two miles away you have the start of the psychedelic music era. So, you had these clashes and who won out? Well, the Beatles later went to Sergeant

Pepper's, Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds. They were affected by what was happening in Palo Alto. And there's a lot in the book that, where I mention that there's no coincidence you have Palo Alto, Stanford and Silicon Valley all at the same locale, and they all contributed to what we know in the world today.

Board Member Kohler: Yeah, I was, it's the Association for the Retarded there on Middlefield Road was where we played for 10 years.

Chair Bower: Every Friday night.

Board Member Kohler: No, it was once or twice a month. But I remember they just thought we were the greatest. They kept yelling, "you're better than the Beatles", of which we were not.

Mr. Crane: If only you had Brian Epstein behind you. Okay, thanks again.

Action Items

Chair Bower: All right, Action Items. This is, I think, going to be relatively straightforward.

Approval of Minutes

3. Approval of the Draft Minutes for April 265, 2019 Meeting of the Historic Resources Board.

Chair Bower: We need to approve the Minutes from our meeting of April 25th. I would like to say that I thought the Minutes, I think the transposition of these minutes has significantly improved, so I don't know what happened, but I read through them and I didn't find, you know, any context issues that were wrong. So, I'm praising whoever is doing this now. Good software. All right, any changes, deletions or omissions in the Minutes? I don't see anybody putting their hands up, so I'm looking for a motion to approve.

MOTION

Board Member Shepherd: I'll move to approve the minutes.

Chair Bower: Is there a second?

Vice Chair Corey: I'll second.

Chair Bower: All right. All in favor say aye. Okay, good. Thank you.

MOTION PASSED WITH A VOTE OF 4-0 WITH BOARD MEMBERS MAKINEN, BERNSTEIN AND WIMMER ABSENT

Subcommittee Items

4. SUBCOMMITTEE: 526 Waverley Street (17PLN-00454): Subcommittee Formation for On-Site Review of Finishes and Colors to Address Conditions of Approval.

Chair Bower: So, the next item on our Agenda is Creation of a Subcommittee for Approval of Finishes at 526 Waverley, and I see that the developer is here, just in time. So, I think as background for this, you know, our packet, the terms of conditions for our prior approval for this project included bringing to the Board the stucco texture, the tile selections and the paint colors, which would be approved by a subcommittee and then approved by the full Board on a consent item. Amy learned what, two weeks ago or more, that the stucco was finished, the tile was set and we had no submissions or approvals. The paint is not on, but that's an easy solution. So, John Shenk, the developer, I think that's the appropriate way to describe your role?

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Chair Bower: Owner, okay. John is here, I presume to talk about the, this item. So, first let's find the people who would be willing to do, serve on the subcommittee. I think it's, I'd like to be on that. I've already been out there and looked at it. We need two other people who are willing? I need two other people. Debbie, okay. And

(off mic)

Chair Bower: Okay, Roger. Okay, so it will be Debbie, me and Roger as the subcommittee. So, John, if you want to join us and talk about what happened here.

Mr. John Shenk: Sure. Thank you very much. Yes, John Shenk representing the Thoits family, the owners of the property. Hi. Doggone, I think what happened here is a lapse of follow-through and attention to detail in terms of the approval conditions between, I think it's a collective dropping of the ball between myself and our architect, Randy Popp. Not that it helps and if my kids started down this path, I would catch them quickly, but you give me a few minutes so I can pretend to be my kids without somebody boxing them in. I think in our zeal we're so excited about this, and I don't know if you recall, there was a lot of excitement when we just got started with it and sort of sharing with Amy around, this will be so great and finding the old plans and all this good stuff, we just started following this trail of information and old pictures and these sorts of things. And then Randy, to his credit, realized, oh, oh, we've gone a step too far and reached out to Amy and then with David. You guys started to figure out, okay, where are we and we recognize that we didn't follow some of the prescriptive steps. We will do as you guys desire. Our request is that you form this subcommittee and come on out and take this – I can't bring it to you because it's on the building in terms of the tiles. The paint colors, even if they were up on the building, we could change them and would. We have some samples on the building. I have brush outs of them and such, but I think it's best for the subcommittee to go and take a peek. We have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to get the plaster just right, over and over, and as you can imagine going into a building that's as old as this one is and all the old signs that have been on and off the building and all these old things. Every time you kind of move a layer in, you realize, oops, now we've found an old patch and we found this and that, and just the artisans who have been out there climbing around and smoothing and slightly adjusting the sand mix and all these things. It's part of the fun of it, but we're just hopeful that you all can come out and say, yup, we love these paint colors, wp like the tile. There is one point I'll make to all of you. Our contractor, with our approval, but we didn't give much thought to it, put in some tile on the ground plane at the entries. There are some of the entries that had, in our restoration part of this, they are now recessed back to their original design, so we were left with some mix match of things on the ground, so we put some tile in there. It is, from our perspective, it is temporary. The sidewalk is a hodgepodge of patches and designs, etc. We've worked with Public Works. They're okay with us not addressing that now. Our intention is to move forward with a bigger scale project behind the historic part of the building. So, the tiles, they're just a bridge between the subpar sidewalks and the level of the interiors. It's not great. I think the ultimate design is that the sidewalk and its design, which, to the degree Public Works buys off on it, would have kind of a cobblestone look to it. We'll go - it would be a seamless finish to the front doors out to the sidewalk when we're all done. But that is another thing that was a call in the field. We don't think it's historic. We don't think it's fantastic, but it's serving a purpose.

Chair Bower: So, if I could, I don't want to interrupt you, but I wanted to ask Amy something about this. So, it says in Randy's letter, which is part of our packet and is part of this hearing, that the replacement of the sidewalk, Staff agreed that it would be deferred until some future date. It's on page 39 of our packet, the paragraph right after the half page. It says "In discussion with Planning Staff, when the project conditions of approval were under development, we agreed, reached an agreement to replace the sidewalk or the replacement of the sidewalk would be deferred." I just want to be sure that that's...

Ms. French: I was not part of that discussion. The Planner, Haleigh, has left the City, so I can't ask her, but possibly she worked it out with Jodie Gerhardt, the current Planning Manager. I can verify with her, but we

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know that this is the initial stage of restoring the building, and then an application, the intent is to move this to Category II from Category III because of the rehabilitation. That goes to Council to put the seal of approval on that. That allows then a bonus area to put housing on the...

Mr. Shenk: Back on the property.

Ms. French: On the second, you know, make a second floor or, it has a second floor – third floor, at the back part of it. So, that project would require replacement of sidewalk along the front, the curb, gutter, sidewalk.

Mr. Shenk: Yeah. And if I could maybe add to that, it was really, as a part of that – I forget the people who were around in that, but the sidewalk being the City's property, it was really the Public Works Department, it was that part of the negotiation. Planning Staff acquiesced to Public Works. It started out Public Works said replace everything, you know, replace the utilities, redo half the street, this sort of thing. And then they realized this was really an historic restoration, so they backed – which was great, I think it's the right thing for the City to, in a way, help facilitate the historic restoration, and then if you want to do something to the building, add area, so something, then come the more typical conditions.

Chair Bower: So, I am confident you want to do this. I guess what makes me slightly uncomfortable is that in this particular project, we now have a material that is supposed to be temporary, but sadly, some temporary materials become permanent, and I guess I'm uncomfortable about the fact that we're being asked to basically close out this portion of your project with the understanding that something will happen in the future which may or may not come back before the Board. And so, because this is an historic renovation which will change categories, which is very significant...

Mr. Shenk: Yes.

Chair Bower: Glad it's being done, but there's a disconnect between this surface that - those little one-inch tiles, which I find, I have problems with them...

Mr. Shenk: Fair.

Chair Bower: Not being addressed until a future date which may never occur. I mean, I can't imagine the number of circumstances where it just doesn't happen. So, I'm uncomfortable about that, that's why I was asking if there is a record of this. And I'm not sure that I have a solution at this moment, but I just want – it's a process thing here. (crosstalk)

Mr. Shenk: And I respect, and if the decision is, hey, we're not okay with that. I know we didn't ask you. We'll pull those tiles out. We can put in some concrete so that it looks, you know, on our property, right, which is where this tile exists now and do some of the matching of the finish. As I recall, and I've been looking at this, the conditions, there isn't anything specific to that area. I don't think we'd really contemplated, well, what are we going to find when we push the wall back to its original position. There was a thought, we'll find the original concrete underneath the old tiles that, the interior tiles that were put on top. Well, we didn't, so we put something in.

Chair Bower: Okay, so, I'm just raising this because...

Mr. Shenk: Very fair.

Chair Bower: As a Board and a City process, I don't think that it's a good idea to, you know, to complete one section of review without having all of the, you know, the scope of that project be complete, so I'll, maybe Amy, you and I can talk about what the right process is, the subcommittee can go out there and look at this.

Ms. French: Yeah, so just to address one piece of what you said earlier, the project that would involve adding to a Category II, that is the goal, would, in the downtown, would absolutely come to the HRB for review. So, you know, there would be conditions that the HRB could weigh in on certainly at that time. Regarding the subcommittee and figuring this out, if we could adjourn from here and go out this morning, we're all here, that was my hope that that would be... Yeah, and you're here.

Mr. Shenk: I turned the temperature down a little bit, so we're okay today.

Ms. French: (crosstalk) is not here.

Mr. Shenk: He's out of town, yes.

Chair Bower: I know Roger and I can do that, because Roger and I are in the same cart. Okay, good. I was hoping we would do that, so that's a good thing. And then we can talk about it. I just want to make sure that the process here is consistent with other City work, and having built housing here, interacted with Public Works for 45 years, they never let us do, put anything off in the future. So, we'll work this out some way, John, so that we can move forward, and certainly encourage your project to move to the next phase.

Ms. French: And one thing I would just say, generally speaking for conditions and modifications, so for instance, packet page 45 are the Public Works and 46 are the Public Works Engineering Conditions that talk about work and the right-of-way, saying the plans must clearly indicate any work proposed in the public right-of-way. This is not in the public right-of-way. This is on private property. So, it gets a little like squishy there and unclear. So, the Public Works doesn't actually need to, you know, modify their own condition and response to this, because it's not in the public right-of-way.

Chair Bower: I totally understand where, you know, the jurisdiction lies. And I don't want to prolong this conversation, because I'd rather have the subcommittee bring this back to the full Board. But it was my understanding Public Works does not like sidewalks that are not...

Mr. Shenk: They don't.

Chair Bower: Weren't conventional, and this is not conventional, and so maybe because this is an historic building, they have an exemption or some other method that allows them to do this, but I think that's a future discussion.

Mr. Shenk: I think you're right, and at that time my hope is, I go to Public Works with your recommendation, your collective thought around, hey, it would be great if the sidewalk in this section were allowed to be finished the way that it used to be. Public Works is tough. They want flat, grey, smooth.

Chair Bower: Yeah, and there are legitimate safety reasons for their standards. I'm not making any comment other than that. I'm aware that they have very precise standards. So, any other Board Members have any comments? If not, we can – I guess, I think that's our entire meeting?

Ms. French: Yes, we're done. (Off mic)

Chair Bower: So, let's – the subcommittee will go out with you after we adjourn, and we'll proceed.

Board Member Questions, Comments and Announcements

Chair Bower: I did want, so, in I guess we're at Board Member Questions, Comments and Announcements, I wanted to say that Martin and Michael and I have created a list of historic materials that could be, that should be looked for in demolition of any buildings, and I forwarded to you, and so I'm hoping that we'll get on to an agenda soon, and actually I presume you've sent that to Phil Bobel and asked him to look at that, because it's really part of his initiative there. So, we've made progress in that we've tried to get this

done quickly so that it could be blended into the demolition proposal that Phil is bringing to Council. So, does anyone else have any comments or announcements? No.

Ms. French: None from Staff.

Board Member Kohler: I was just going to say that Martin and I have been on the Board a long time, and it's interesting that when we first came on board and all the things we did. You weren't here and this and that, but it's pretty amazing that we're still functioning here and doing — and I think the Board over all these years has had a pretty big impact, and it has been a good thing to have and I think most citizens are glad that we're here. Because a lot of folks that live in older homes and everything, do like to, are impressed that we are watching over things, is what I guess I'm trying to say. And we're kind of a subtle Board. We're not big names and things like that, but I just think it's been quite a long ride for me, especially, but I think we're important people in what goes on here in town, and I'm glad to have staff that's so good. So, thank you.

Chair Bower: I'd second that.

Ms. French: In turn, I will thank the Board for your service. Thank you.

Chair Bower: So, our next Board Meeting might be August 22nd?

Ms. French: It's looking more like that. The reason to meet in July would be to, if you wanted to discuss these materials, or just approval of minutes from today, which, you know, can wait till August.

Chair Bower: I think that these demolition materials should be piggy-backed on some other program. It's not a large enough topic to warrant an independent...

Ms. French: I think the only reason we would meet July 11th would be if the Cannery/Fry's Site were to come forward. I'm kind of in the process of verifying it this week about that, to see if that's possible.

Chair Bower: So, the one thing I'm thinking about in terms of the demolition materials is if, for some reason, that information would need to be part of the Council process, which I think Phil's already submitted, then maybe we would want to have a brief meeting to talk about that. So, I guess we'd let Phil advise on that.

Ms. French: All right. I'll reach out to Phil today.

Adjournment

Chair Bower: Okay. All right. With that, I think we're adjourned. Thank you. Nice to see you. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer. I hope it's not as hot as last week.