

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Bartke

Present: Barbara Hill, Tom Panas, David Weinstein, Rich Bartke, Joanne Rubio

Absent: Debbie Weeks

The Minutes of November 19, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted

Topics Discussed

Annual Meeting - Vets Memorial Hall - January 25, 2014 - 2:00-4:00

Each Director will speak on specific topics as follows:

Rich	Recognitions, Society activities, Member Suggestions, Dues, Election of Board Directors
Tom	Finances, Mabuchi Project, Chung Mei Home Historic District
Barbara	Shadi Room
Debbie	Website
Joanne	Minutes, Sparks and The Forge
David	Meetings, events

Recognitions

Board Directors should send suggestions for recognitions at the Annual Meeting ahead of time to Rich.

Dues

The Board approved the motion that Membership Dues stay at \$25 for another year.

Sparks

Dave requested that we keep it short and only discuss the major things -- maybe 10 of our accomplishments for the year. Rich will draft a list and Dave will write the Sparks this time.

The Forge

Joanne agreed to research and write an article for The Forge to go out before the January 18th meeting. It will include an announcement about the meeting as well as information about the Veterans' Memorial Hall.

History and Tour of the Veterans' Building

Jack O'Leary and Joe Pickle will lead a tour of the building for members attending the meeting. Dave will ask them to speak, perhaps as a panel with him asking questions. Joanne and Dave hope to talk to them before the date. Dave will check on their availability.

Chung Mei Heritage Day - December 18, 2013 - El Cerrito City Hall

Plans are set for tomorrow's event. Tom will be at the Shadi room from 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Barbara will be there in the afternoon. Joanne will bring decorations/food/beverages and set up tables/chairs/food in the lobby of City Hall at 4:30. The evening reception will be from 5:30-7:00 p.m. There will be a continuous-playing slide show on several monitors. The Chung Mei Chronicles and other books will be set out on a special table. Another table will have Chung Mei Chronicle handouts for folks to take. Tom will set up the sound system for those who may want to speak. Some large photos and the letter about the Chung Mei Home Historic District finding of eligibility will be on display.

Other Business

Sparks

The Board approved Tom as the final editor for all future editions of the Sparks Newsletter.

Lincoln Highway Magazine Subscription

The Board approved renewing the \$45.00 subscription for one more year.

Rodini House

Tom reported that the design and style of this development have been greatly improved. It now includes leaving the creek completely intact, hopefully including the stone wall and bed. The house would be moved to the back of the lot on the south side of the creek. The current plan includes open space in front of the house but it is not clear if this public space. Tom will be advocating for historical interpretation in this space similar to what was done for the Eden Housing Project. This project proposal will likely come to the Planning Commission in January or February.

Mabuchi/Eden Housing

The latest proposal, which includes a remarkable tribute to El Cerrito's Japanese Heritage, will be presented for approval at the Planning Commission tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m.

Draft Historic Resources Ordinance and Context Statement

Tom has continued his efforts to spread the knowledge embodied in the draft El Cerrito Historic Context Statement by distributing the parts that affect current projects in the City. He feels that the current staff is open to both the draft Context Statement and draft Historic Resources Ordinance. Perhaps this open attitude will lead to adoption in the next few years even though this goal was dropped out of the 5-Year Strategic Plan. He thinks this may be the year someone from the California State office speaks to the Council or the Planning Commission.

Portola Middle School Museum Idea

Marne Mufti has contacted Dave about Portola Middle School eventually having a mini-museum similar to the one at El Cerrito High School. The Board would like to hear more about this. Dave will investigate and report back on their latest plans/ideas.

Human Resources Commission's Annual - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

25th Anniversary in El Cerrito - January 20, 2014

Pat Durham from the Human Resources Committee hopes to make this year's parade a bigger event than usual. She is asking if the Historical Society would like to have a table at the parade ending site. The parade starts at the DMV at 9:30 a.m. and proceeds to the high school. The event usually wraps up at about 12:30. Joanne and Barbara both said they could spend a couple of hours there. The Board will make a final decision via e-mail once the details of the plan are confirmed by the City in January.

Shadi Room Donation

An anonymous donor has asked if there were any items or materials they could purchase for the Shadi Room. The Board approved accepting the donation. Tom, Barbara and Joanne will work on this. Barbara noted that finding something to take the "mucilage" off the back of old photos would be great.

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: January 21, 2013 - 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Board Minutes submitted by Joanne Rubio, Secretary