

CITY OF SANTA MARIA
LANDMARK COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 9, 2012
Santa Maria Library, Study Room C
4:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Committee Chair Edward Zemaitis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Edward "Jim" Zemaitis, Chair	Present
Jo Ann "Joey" Wilson, Secretary	Present
Tim Larson	Present
Ryan Fisher	Present
Michelle Huitron	Absent

3. MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes of August 14, 2012 meeting by Joey Wilson, seconded by Jim Zemaitis.

4. COMMUNICATION:

Jim Zemaitis reported that he received a phone call on October 9, from Mr. Gil Harper regarding the committee's progress with Mr. Harper's request to formally recognize a former Harper property. Jim informed Mr. Harper about the current situation regarding the failed attempts to contact Mr. Hugo Casas with the possibility of special designation of his property at 214 E. Fesler Street- a former Harper property. Jim indicated that other properties identified as formerly owned by the Harper Family could also be considered.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Jim Zemaitis discussed with the committee the September 11, 2012 ceremony to designate Bill's Take-Out an Object of Historical Merit. Tim Larson agreed to update the committee's records to include all documents/images from the Bill's Take-Out and the former Hancock Field Mess Hall (Eagles Aerie 1745) ceremonies for digitization.
- B. Tim Larson received a request by the current occupants of Bill's Take-Out for a duplicate certificate to be retained and publicly displayed at the property.
- C. Jim indicated that there has been no communication between the city manager's office and the committee regarding the designation of the Palm Court neighborhood.
- D. Jim reported that he discussed with City Councilmember Mr. Mike Cordero at the Bill's Take-Out ceremony, details about the former Foster Road Drag-Strip. Mr. Cordero indicated that he had participated in events at the track when it was active as did some members of the Bent Axles Car Club that were present for the ceremony. Jim indicated that Mr. Cordero and some club members would also be able to provide the committee additional information on the original site of the former drag strip.

E. Tim Larson discussed plans by the Santa Maria Japanese Community Center (SMJCC) for future development of the property previously under consideration for special designation. Tim indicated that the organization was uncertain about what their plans were and the committee agreed to let the issue remain tabled.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Joey made a motion to recommend Ryan Fisher for the position of Landmark Committee Secretary, which was seconded by Jim and approved by the committee.

B. In response to Tim's request for additional certificates for Objects of Historical Merit by Bill's Take-Out, Joey brought up the idea of providing duplicate documents to the original builders/owners of a designated property as well as the current owners/occupants. Both Tim and Jim agreed that the families or heirs of former owners/builders may have an entitlement to copies of such certificates due to their connection to the property. Ryan pointed out that the certificates presented by the committee recognize the property itself and the current owner/occupant as the acting "custodian" of said property and therefore should be reserved only for current owners/occupants.

C. Jim asked for recommendations by committee members for potential candidate properties for future designation.

1. Joey suggested the Ethel Pope Auditorium on the grounds of Santa Maria High School and the First United Methodist Church at 311 S. Broadway.

2. Tim suggested that the committee recognize the history or early pioneers of sports/athletics in Santa Maria by designating a yet-to-be-determined location or facility. Some suggestions were the Minami Center, Elks Field, the Santa Maria Country Club or the former Paul Nelson Pool.

3. Ryan recommended the former Santa Maria Valley Railroad engine house located on the 600 block of South Miller Street immediately South of Elks Field.

D. Ryan suggested the possibility of a citywide assessment of possible historic properties as a resource for future committee activities.

E. Tim Larson brought up the concept of creating an annual mission statement and called for increased accountability by the city regarding the committee's recommendations and maintenance of the city's website as it relates to the Landmark Committee. Jim pointed out that the committee acts only in an advisory capacity and cannot mandate any actions by the city.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no Announcements

8. ADJOURNMENT: 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: