

CITY OF SANTA MARIA
LANDMARK COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 12, 2013
Santa Maria Library, Study Room C
4:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Committee Chair Edward Zemaitis called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Edward "Jim" Zemaitis, Chair	Present
Jo Ann "Joey" Wilson	Present
Ryan Fisher, Secretary	Present
Michelle Huitron	Present
Sandra Valdez	Present

3. MINUTES: Minutes of October 12, 2013 meeting approved.

4. COMMUNICATION:

- A. Jim has confirmed that the Bas Relief of the *Santa Maria*, remains in good condition at the Wells Fargo Branch at 407 E. Main Street. No further suggestions for the relief's disposition have been received by the Committee from the Mayor or City Council.
- B. Joey reports that the United Methodist Church has taken the Committee's suggestion under advisement and is continuing to deliberate.
- C. Jim has been in contact with City Manager, Rick Hayden, who provided advice regarding three of the Committee's properties that have been brought up for consideration:
 1. Palm Court: Mr. Hayden saw no objection from the City by naming the neighborhood an Object of Historical Merit; suggesting that a letter of intent be sent to each homeowner and inviting comments. Mr. Hayden further offered the possibilities of using Council chambers for public comment and unique signage provided by the City.
 2. Foster Road Drag Strip: Mr. Hayden also suggested that the location be designated an Object of Historical Merit. He had concerns centered on the enabling ordinance SMCC 8.3.06a, and the possibility that the site was recommended for a limited or special group and not in the public interest. Mr. Hayden also recommended discussing the matter with the Airport District to determine if it fell within the District's plan.
 3. Norden Bombsight Vaults: The same recommendations as the drag strip were suggested for the vaults as some may fall within the Airport plan.
- D. Sandra reports that Hugo Casas remains occupied with other business and is currently unable to move forward with any designation of a former Harper Property. She will remain in contact with him and notify the Committee when he

is prepared to move forward. Jim explained the process timeline to Sandra, so that she can relay to Mr. Casas what to expect when he is ready.

- E. Jim picked-up a "generic" City of Santa Maria business card from City Hall for the Committee to review per Mark van de Kamp's recommendation that committee members use these "generic" cards and simply hand-write their names when conducting committee business with the public. Jim brought up the possibility of printing individual names on the cards for a more professional and legitimate appearance. The Committee discussed the matter and asked if Jim could provide an example of the "blank" cards that Mr. van de Kamp suggested to consider the options.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Palm Court Subdivision: Sandra is compiling a list of addresses of all Palm Court homeowners; Ryan will draft a letter to the homeowners about the planned designation and public comment period and Jim will provide the postage. Michelle has offered to put any collected email addresses of homeowners into a spreadsheet if it becomes necessary.
- B. The former Foster Road Drag Strip: The committee discussed the concerns addressed by Mr. Hayden's communications and were in unanimous agreement that any designation of the Foster Road Drag Strip were strictly for the historic value of the location and that any peripheral interest by private groups or organizations was secondary to the Committee's intent to recognize the historic value of one of the earliest NHRA sanctioned drag-ways in the country.
- C. Type II Norden Bombsite Vaults: Ryan mentioned that while only the easternmost vault on Foster Road, which has the easiest public access, should be considered the "example vault," all vaults -regardless of their location- will be part of the designation. The Committee will petition the Airport Board to arrange a survey of all other vaults in the area to compile list of all vaults and their current condition. The historic value of many of the vaults -as recognized in other locations around the country- has been the presence of WWII era graffiti, which may bear the names and hometowns of airmen who served at Santa Maria Army Airfield. Ryan will contact the Airport Board through Administrative Secretary Christine Freitas to Airport General Manager Chris Hastert to review our considerations and requests. Absent a timely response from the Airport Board, Jim and Ryan may attend a future Airport Board meeting to address the issue in public comments.
- D. Ryan will attempt to attend one of the next airport board meetings to inform the board of the Committee's purposes and intent for special designation of any/all Type II Norden Bombsite Vaults located both within and beyond airport property (Currently, locations of only 4 are known in various states of preservation). The Committee would like, and will request the opportunity to survey as many as possible.

6. NEW BUSINESS: No new information was reported on the previously discussed Committee Facebook page that Mark van de Kamp offered to set-up. The Committee will address the issue at a later meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Joey reported that Virginia Souza from the Santa Maria Rotary was leading a project to renovate Buena Vista Park, a city landmark. The project is seeking volunteers and possible input from the Landmark Committee. Joey will represent the Committee at any meetings. The Committee had no recommendations as the park itself has no structures that would be affected by any such renovation. The only possibility being the Campfire Cabin, which is separately designated an Object of Historical Merit and is under the custodianship of the Camp Fire organization.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 5:03 p.m.