



## ***CITY OF AZUSA CULTURAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION***

### **MINUTES**

April 16, 2013

The regularly scheduled of the City of Azusa Cultural and Historic Preservation Commission was held on April 16, 2013 in the City of Azusa Library Auditorium.

#### **Call To Order**

Vice- Chairman Arevalo called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Lead by Commissioner Hernandez

#### **Roll Call**

Members present: AREVALO, HEATH, HERNANDEZ,

Members Absent: RUSSEK

#### **Staff Present**

Tito Haes, Assistant City Manager / Public Works Director; Susan Cole, Commission staff liaison.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting were approved as revised.

#### **Public Participation**

None

#### **Scheduled Items**

Scheduled Item #1 – Acceptance of a Letter of Resignation from Commission Chairman Jeffrey Cornejo. The Commission received and filed the Letter of Resignation from Commission Chairman Jeffrey Cornejo. The Commission was informed that the resignation was required per Section 55-3 of the Azusa Municipal Code, which states that a commissioner cannot be an officer or employee of the City. Commissioner Hernandez stated, and the rest of the Commission concurred, that Commissioner Cornejo would be greatly missed but that the Commission's loss would be the City Clerk Office's gain.

Scheduled Item #2 - Election of new Chairperson and Vice-chairperson. Commissioner Jule Arevalo was unanimously elected Chairperson and Commissioner Daysi Hernandez was unanimously elected Vice-chairperson.

Scheduled Item #3 – Review and discussion of the Cultural Resources Section of the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Azusa Intermodal Transit Facility. The Commission reviewed and discussed Chapter 3.4 – Cultural Resources of the Azusa Intermodal Transit Facility Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report

(DEIR). Comments were received from the following members of the public: Bruce Knoles, Jorge Rosales and Joe Guarrera. The Commission had the following comments on the “Alternative 1” proposal and the “Alternative 2” proposal.

Alternative 1:

1. The Commission does not agree with the finding in the revised DEIR that the proposed “Alternative 1” project will result in less-than-significant impacts to the Durrell House, 124 E. Santa Fe (the Bashful Butler building), the Barnes House, the Santa Fe Depot, or the Civic Auditorium.
2. The Commission feels that the “Alternative 1” project site, as the site of the oldest park in Azusa, meets the criteria of a “unique archeological resource” pursuant to Section 21083.2 of the Public Resources Code and that the project, as proposed in “Alternative 1” will have a substantial adverse impact on the park site.
3. The Commission feels that the proposed “Alternative 1” project will have a significant impact on the Azusa Civic Center when evaluated under 36 CFR800.5(a)(2)(iv.): “Change of the character of the property’s use or of physical features within the property’s setting that contribute to its historic significance.”
4. Azusa City Hall, not just the auditorium, is included on the City’s list of Potential Historic Landmarks and, as such, the substantial adverse affect of the proposed “Alternative 1” project on City Hall should be evaluated.
5. The “Alternative 1” proposal, eliminating the parking for the Durrell House Historical Museum, will have a substantial adverse effect on this historic structure.

Alternative 2:

1. The Commission agreed with the finding in the revised DEIR that “Alternative 2” would result in a less-than-significant construction impact to the historic significance of the Durrell House, 124 E. Santa Fe (the Bashful Butler building), the Barnes House, the Santa Fe Depot, and the Civic Auditorium.
2. The Commission also agreed with the finding in the revised DEIR that “Alternative 2” would have no construction impacts relating to the historic significance of the properties at 810, 812, 824, and 845 N. Alameda Avenue, since none of these properties are considered potential historic resources and none are eligible for local or national historic designation.
3. The Commission strongly felt that the “Alternative 2” project proposal is a better option and a significantly better solution to the location of the proposed intermodal transit facility, and that it is more compatible with the existing historical resources nearby.

**Reports and Communications**

Commissioner Hernandez informed the Commission that the Azusa Library has a collection of historical documents which is currently underutilized. She suggested that the Commission may want to review the historical documents and provide direction and assistance to the Library staff regarding the documents as a historical resource. The Commission requested that Commissioner Hernandez act as a representative to the Library and report back to the Commission on any help the Commission could provide.

Commissioner Hernandez also presented the Commission with a flyer advertising an upcoming event benefiting the Azusa Library Literacy Program.

Commissioner Heath stated that she would like the Commission to agendaize a discussion regarding a Historic Tree Preservation program which would provide protection for “Heritage Trees” in the community. Chairperson Arevalo requested that Commissioner Health prepare a report on the issue for the rest of the Commission.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.