

Cultural Heritage Commission
Official Minutes
Thursday, August 5, 2021
(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION HEREIN ARE REPORTED IN ACTION FORMAT. THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION RELATED TO EACH ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE IN AUDIO FORMAT ONLINE AT planning.lacity.org. TO LISTEN TO THE AUDIO FILE: SELECT “ABOUT”, “COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & HEARINGS”, FILTER BY “CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION”, LOCATE THE COMMISSION MEETING DATE AND SELECT THE “AUDIO” BUTTON.

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID19, the Cultural Heritage Commission meeting was conducted telephonically.

Commission Vice President Gail Kennard called the regular meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with Commissioners Richard Barron, Pilar Buelna, and Diane Kanner in attendance. Commissioner Barry Milofsky was absent.

Also in attendance were Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, representing the Director of Planning; Lambert Giessinger, Preservation Architect; Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate representing the Office of Historic Resources; Lucy Atwood, Deputy City Attorney; James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II; and Denise Otero, Commission Office Staff

ITEM NO. 1

DIRECTOR’S REPORT AND COMMISSION BUSINESS

Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner reported the following:

- The Planning and Land Use Management Committee has continued its consideration of the Historic- Cultural Monument nomination for the Mechicano Art Center in Highland Park to a future date;
- Other nominations pending City Council consideration are for the Studio City Golf and Tennis, the Magnolia Boulevard Oak Trees, Point Fermin Light Station, the Dolores Del Rio Residence, and Bothwell Ranch;
- There is a notable change in Mayor Eric Garcetti’s team. Deputy Mayor Billy Chun has departed his position and the Mayor has selected the Planning Department’s Executive Officer, Kevin Keller, as the new Deputy Mayor of Economic Development; and
- The Office of Historic Resources is again receiving a Certified Local Government grant from the State Office of Historic Preservation. This year’s grant is in the amount of \$40,000 and it will support the development of a mobile device and web- friendly public engagement program to enhance access to Historic Places LA. As part of the grant we were able to put forth a proposal to develop a pilot program to develop options for pursuing digital markers in public space that would include the use of QR codes, potentially linked to new technologies such as augmented reality to help better interpret and showcase sites of social and cultural significance.

Old Business

- Review and Advisory Concurrence of Proposed Historic-Cultural Monument Plaque Artwork.

There was no plaque artwork.

New Business

- Advance Calendar – Commissioner Buelna plans to be absent from the August 19, 2021 meeting.
- Commission Announcements/Requests – Commissioner Kennard requested that the Department discuss ways to capture the benefits of virtual meetings in terms of increasing public participation when we transition to in-person meetings. It would be great for people who are not able to appear in person to be able to participate in meetings.

ITEM NO. 2

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

There were no presentations.

ITEM NO. 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Several speakers addressed the Commission.

ITEM NO. 4

APPOINTMENT OF TONIA M. BYRD AS THE MEMBER-AT-LARGE TO THE LA FAYETTE SQUARE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OVERLAY ZONE BOARD FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM FROM AUGUST 5, 2021 TO AUGUST 5, 2025.

Commissioner Kanner moved to appoint Tonia M. Byrd to the La Fayette Square Historic Preservation Overlay Zone Board for a four-year term. Commissioner Barron seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Kanner
Seconded: Barron
Ayes: Buelna, Kennard
Absent: Milofsky

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 5

PROPOSED MONUMENT: FAIRFAX THEATER BUILDING

CHC-2021-3836-HCM

CEQA: ENV-2021-3838-CE

Council District: 5 – Koretz

Plan Area: Wilshire

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 7901-7909 West Beverly Boulevard

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dale Kendall, Save Beverly Fairfax and Art Deco Society of Los Angeles, Applicant; Steven Luftman, Preparer ; Bill Delvac, Armbruster, Goldsmith & Delvac LLP representing B and F Associates, c/o Alex Gorby, Maxser & Co, Owner; Anton Henning, L s { e v h \$ P e o w \$ E v g l m i g x w \$ representing the Owner

Commissioner Kanner put forth the actions below and moved to include the Fairfax Theater Building in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

1. Determine that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Determine that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAAC Section 22.171.7;
3. Recommend that the City Council consider and declare the subject property an Historic-Cultural Monument; and
4. Adopt the staff report findings as amended by the Commission.

Commissioner Barron seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Kanner
Seconded: Barron
Ayes: Buelna, Kennard
Absent: Milofsky

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM NO. 6

PROPOSED MONUMENT: NISHIYAMA RESIDENCE/OTOMISAN JAPANESE RESTAURANT

CHC-2020-6022-HCM

CEQA: ENV-2020-6023-CE

Council District: 14 – de León

Plan Area: Boyle Heights

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2504-2508 East 1st Street

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rosalind Sagara, Los Angeles Conservancy, Presenter and Applicant; Vivian Escalante, Boyle Heights Community Partners Co-Applicant; Arturo Yoshimoto, representing the Owner; and Judy Hayashi, representing the Otomisan Japanese Restaurant owner

Commissioner Kanner put forth the actions below and moved to include the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

1. Determine that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Determine that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAAC Section 22.171.7;
3. Recommend that the City Council consider and declare the subject property an Historic-Cultural Monument; and
4. Adopt the staff report findings as the findings of the Commission.

Commissioner Barron seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Kanner
Seconded: Barron
Ayes: Buelna, Kennard
Absent: Milofsky

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

The meeting recessed at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened at 11:46 a.m. with Commissioners Kennard, Barron, Buelna, and Kanner in attendance.

ITEM NO. 7

PROPOSED MONUMENT: JOHN VAN PELT ESTATE

[CHC-2020-6024-HCM](#)

CEQA: ENV-2020-6025-CE

Plan Area: Hollywood

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2141-2149 North Lyric

Council District: 4 – Raman

IN ATTENDANCE:

Daniel Paul, Applicant

Commissioner Buelna put forth the actions below and moved to include the subject property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments with the Proposed Monument name amended to be the John and Myra Van Pelt Estate.

1. Determine that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Determine that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAAC Section 22.171.7;
3. Recommend that the City Council consider and declare the subject property an Historic-Cultural Monument; and
4. Adopt the staff report findings as modified by the Commission.

Commissioner Kanner seconded the motion and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Buelna
Seconded: Kanner
Ayes: Barron, Kennard
Absent: Milofsky

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

There being no further business to come before the Cultural Heritage Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

 (Electronic Signature)

Gail Kennard, Vice President
Cultural Heritage Commission

 (Electronic Signature
on behalf of)

James K. Williams, Commission Executive Assistant II
Cultural Heritage Commission

ADOPTED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEC 16 2021
CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION OFFICE