

CITY OF COSTA MESA  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes for Thursday, April 10, 2014

PRESENT: John McQueen, Margy Johnston, Dave Gardner, Terry Shaw,  
Pam Crenshaw Melinda Lowery, Gary Parkin, Mary Ellen  
Goddard, Christopher Ganiere, Karen McKenna-Juergens and  
Alternate George Nakai

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa McPherson

Council Member: Wendy Leece (present)

CALL TO ORDER

John called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF March 13, 2014 minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Pam; seconded by Mary Ellen; passed  
unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anna Vrska – Is a resident interested in all City Committees and wanted to learn about  
the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Historical Site Markers

- Margy found an old map in the “Slice of Orange” book and informed the Committee about the following information:

### **Town of Fairview- 1888**

Gayle and Henderson Drug Store- S.E Corner Harbor (aka Fairview) and Adams (aka Myrtle)

- 1888
- Also housed the post office
- V.W Gayle was town’s physician
- Sold medicines, “fancy goods”, oil and paints
- Closed in 1889

Henderson Brothers General Store – S.E Corner Harbor (aka Fairview) and Adams (aka Myrtle)

- 1888
- Sold in early 1890 to J.S Collings, who was Fairview’s 2<sup>nd</sup> postmaster and Alfred Wells
- Served as post office after drug store closed
- Stocked “necessities” – groceries, dry goods but not meat. Owners would bring meat from a Santa Ana butchers upon customer request.
- Closed in 1904
- Building destroyed by fire in 1905

Hotel Fairview- N.E Corner Harbor and Merrimac

- Originally 2 blocks north of the general store, it moved in 1891
- Two story hotel had 15 rooms
- Sold in 1903 to W.S Colling, it was revived as a health and pleasure resort patterned on European spas, renamed Fairview Hot Springs.
- Improvements included new cottages, tennis and croquet courts and landscaped grounds
- Sold in 1920 at auction to Charles TeWinkle, who tore the Hotel down and used the lumber and fixture in his new home

Welbourne Building- N.W Corner Harbor (aka Fairview) and Adams (aka Myrtle)

- 1889
- 2 story office building and residence built by E.L Welbourne

Hot Mineral Artesian Well

- Claim to cure rheumatism, neuralgia, gout, general debility blood and skin diseases. Water contained iron, sulpher, and burox. Bath house had 8 rooms.

WF Tate

- Contractor and builder

James Hawkes Painting

- Gloves made to order, “robes, mitts moccasins”, sheep, goat, wolf, calf, and deer. Skins taken in exchange. Fur colored skins made soft

LeBerry and Weber- Fairview Ave.

- Beet, pork, veal, ham, bacon, mutton, poultry and eggs
- take order and deliver meat daily

Hotel Fairview

- Rooms and suites. Served food
- Croquet and tennis courts

Gayle and Henderson

- Medicines, fancy goods, paint and oils

- Lisa informed the Committee that Public Service will place the marker, however the Committee will have to purchase the marker. Margy will verify the Welbourne Building location and dates for the Harbor Boulevard Beautification project.
- Melinda made a motion for Lisa to obtain a draft and purchase quote of the Welbourne Building Marker, seconded by Christopher; passed unanimously.

## 2. Old newspaper clipping project

- The Committee reviewed a final draft.
- Melinda made a motion to post the final draft on the City’s Website and have the date reflect the year; seconded by Mary Ellen; passed unanimously.
- Melinda and Christopher will be on the subcommittee to gather more clippings for the next issue.

## 3. Identify Costa Mesa Notable Residents

- Dave visit the Historical Society and provided the Committee with the following list.
  - Fred Allen – Editor of Globe Herald
  - Gabe Allen- Pioneer of Costa Mesa
  - Steve Akutagawa- Japanese
  - Gil Alcalá- Last person to live in the Adobe.
  - John Baca- Medal of Honor winner

- Charles and Betty Brecher- Founders of Costa Mesa Society
- Don Qusenberry- MBL Player
- Sarah Conant – First city Librarian
- Dick Dale- Guitar player for the Beach Boys.
- Danny Davey- Indians
- Sharon Day- Olympian
- Esther Dendel's- Cermacies
- Carl Diedrich- Coffey
- Authur Gavan- Lost life in desert storm
- Jose Garibay- Lost life in Iraq
- Dan Gurney- Race car
- Jack – Mayor
- Cornelius- Early farmer
- Rocco McClellan- Paving contractor
- Dr. A.G Hughes- First doctor
- Ed Millen- Author of *A Slice of Orange*
- John Moorlock – Community Service
- Cuby Morris- Motorcycle C.H.P paramedic
- Jason Norrow- Marine killed in Iraq. 2006
- Nell Nurbargen –
- Walter Ozmen– Built the first business building
- Henry – Civil leader
- Alice Plumer- Named Costa Mesa, Plumer St
- Harry Suhick- First post mail
- Jacob Shiffer- Died in 1910. Had park named after him
- Bob Skiles- Entertainer
- Chuck Shinh Pastor – Started Calvary Chapel
- Charles TeWinkle
- Frank Vaughn
- Bob Wilson Mayor- Wrote book
- Mark Hanson- Motivational speaker, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*
- Sharon Day- Article
- Herb Jenks – Fiber glass fishing rod

➤ The Committee will review the list to narrow it down at the May meeting.

#### 4. Research “Then and Now Buildings”

- Pam visit the Historical Society and found some old photos; she will continue to research for more of the following present places:
  - OC Fairgrounds
  - South Coast Plaza
  - Triangle Square
  - Neighbors Cadillac
  - Mesa Verde Center
  - Vanguard

- Adobe
- Mothers Market
- Trader Joes/Pet Smart/Michael's center
- Denny's
- City Hall
- Gas Station (Drive-In was)

5. Identify an alternate way to distribute Historical Site Marker pamphlets
- Tabled

## NEW BUSINESS

- The Committee will nominate and vote on a Chair and Vice Chair at the May meeting.

## COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- The Historical Society event – Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. guest speaker Craig McDonald “Gold Rush Glimpses – Back to the Future”.

## COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

- Wendy informed the Committee on a letter she received: *“The phrase “Costa Mesa” is a nonsense expression. The proper way to say “coastal plateau” in Spanish is “una meseta costera”. However we are not a “mesa/meseta” – that expression applies to a unique landform that is completely surrounded by cliffs on all sides. In 1920, a woman named Alice Plumer allegedly “won” a “contest” to name the city, yet her win was not legitimate because she was one of the people conducting the contest! In sum: the name has absolutely no significance for our town. I think reverting to the name “Fairview” is the best idea. It is a good old historic name for the town and honestly conveys the lookout from the city’s bluffs. Re-naming ourselves “The City of Fairview, California” is a great idea and should be done as soon as possible. And several streets ought to be renamed at the same time as the city’s name is changed- for similar reasons. For example, “Santa Ana Avenue” sounds like it is located in Santa Ana. It out to be renamed “Newport Heights Avenue”. And “Placentia” is another nonsense Spanish word and nearby city. It sounds like “placenta”- the sac that holds a fetus. The street should be renamed “Pleasant Avenue”. Another poorly names street is “Monrovia”- from the capital city of Liberia in Africa! We should change it immediately- “Harper Street” would sensible and historic. By the way, the south stretch of Bristol street from Newport Blvd to Jamboree used to be called “Palisades Road” and that name should be restored to end confusion”*

## ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. located in City Hall Conference Room 1A

