

City of Huntington Beach Historic Resources Board

Minutes of Special Meeting September 8, 2014

Present: Kay Cowling, Dave Wentworth, Duane Wentworth, Joe Santiago, Roz Essner (early half of meeting), Kathie Schey

No Public Comments

Discussion of September 2, 2014 City Council Meeting Agenda Item #14 Golden Bear Plaque

- The Historic Resources Board had submitted Memorandum dated August 28, 2014 (incorporated in the current minutes as HRB 1) in which the HRB strongly recommended Council approval of the Golden Bear Plaque submitted under Alternative Action #1 and Attachment #2 of the associated Request for Council Action.
- HRB Acting Chair Duane Wentworth and HRB member Joe Santiago attended the meeting and spoke about this issue.
- Council did support the HRB's position.

Follow-up Action by HRB

The HRB continues to be concerned that plaque wording was chosen and the order for the plaque was placed prior to any Request for Council Action which is inappropriate and a violation of the City Charter. It was unanimously decided KC (1) and DW (2) that a letter be written to the City Attorney McGrath asking her to investigate violations of Sections 301 and 802 as evidenced by actions presented to City Council at the Council Meeting held September 2, 2014.

The letter was jointly written at the HRB Special Meeting of September 8. (incorporated in the current minutes as HRB 2). It was unanimously approved for submission to the City Attorney. JS (1), DW (2) (Essner absent)

Adjournment: Meeting concluded at 7:30 KS (1) and KC (2)

Historic Resources Board

An advisory board to the Huntington Beach City Council

September 8, 2014

City Attorney McGrath,

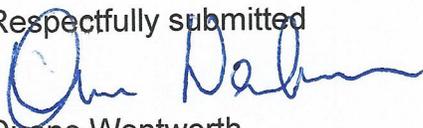
The Historic Resources Board of Huntington Beach respectfully requests that you open an investigation into the violation of **City Charter Section 307. Non-Interference with Administration.** and **Section 802. Violations.** as evidenced by actions regarding the Golden Bear Plaque prior to presentation to City Council at public meeting September 2nd, 2014. These actions culminated in interference with City Staff by an individual council member to spend City funds in advance of Council approval.

These actions also countermanded Council Directive from March 10, 2014, "... recommending that the Historic Resources Board working with city staff, be requested to: develop plaque options for the site including size, plaque text, material and placement of the monument... Direct City Manager and the city's Historic Resources Board to research options, location, and cost for the plaque."

Additionally, these actions produced an error ridden plaque that does no honor to the Golden Bear or the City of Huntington Beach.

We request action to halt the placement/installation of the currently cast plaque until the investigation is completed.

Respectfully submitted



Duane Wentworth

Acting Chair, Historic Resources Board of Huntington Beach

Attachments:

HRB Letter recommending the officially approved plaque
City Council Interoffice Communication from March 10, 2014.

Historic Resources Board

An advisory board to the Huntington Beach City Council

August 28, 2014

RE: September 2, 2014, Council Agenda Item # 14 Golden Bear Plaque

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The Historic Resources Board strongly recommends that the Council reject the recommended action and approve the Golden Bear plaque submitted under Alternative Action #1 and Attachment #2 of the RCA.

This original version (Attachment #2) was prepared in response to a March 10, 2014 Directive to the HRB to "develop plaque options for the site including size, plaque text, material and placement." This version resulted from many hours of research and the combined expertise of the HRB. It was approved by a vote of the full HRB and was very well-received outside of the Board as well.

Subsequently, a different version of this plaque appeared. The HRB finds that version (Attachment #1 of this RCA) historically inaccurate and grammatically incorrect. Furthermore, it contains an unnecessary and inappropriate reference to the personal bankruptcy of a former owner of this legendary venue.

The Golden Bear was a sonic temple for music, ideas and laughter. Music is said to be the universal language, a language that speaks loudly to our youth. What will they learn from that subsequent version of the plaque? That it is OK to write poorly because "it's not that bad?" That it is OK to honor one of the greatest losses in Orange County music and architectural history with dishonorable and sloppy work?

Let us give this landmark, this city and our children the accurate and honorable tribute they all deserve. Please approve Alternative Action #1 and Attachment #2, the version prepared with the expertise of the Historic Resources Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Duane Wentworth
Chair, Historic Resources Board