



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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## HISTORIC WINTERSBURG PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

### MINUTES FOR MONDAY, JAN. 28, 2013

Council Members: Mayor Connie Boardman, Council Member Matthew Harper (absent), and Council Member Joe Shaw (absent)

Staff: Ricky Ramos

Chair: Mary Urashima, Committee Members: Gloria Alvarez, Stacha Khatib, and Sue Gordon

Advisory: Phil Chinn, Doug Erber, Dann Gibb and Dennis Masuda

**Public Comments** – None.

**Approval of minutes:**

- a. November 2012 – Approved, motion by Mayor Boardman, second by Sue Gordon
- b. December 2012 – Approved, motion by Mayor Boardman, second by Sue Gordon

**Update on CEQA process**

- c. **Response to public comments schedule** – Planning staff Ricky Ramos informed the committee that staff is still responding to comments (at least 17 comment letters from individuals and organizations received). Staff hopes to have response to comments completed by the end of February 2013.
- d. **Planning Commission public hearing schedule** – The tentative schedule is for a Planning Commission workshop on February 26, 2013, and a Planning Commission public hearing on March 12, 2013. (Note: these dates changed after the meeting).

**Budget**

Ledger distributed by Ricky Ramos. Ledger Balance= \$2,613.02.

(\*\$750.00 transferred from mayor's budget in different ledger, per Ricky Ramos, and can be used for educational purposes only.) Actual balance= \$3363.02

Mary Urashima continuing to work on grant opportunities and requested committee members pursue their own research on fundraising and grants.

Questions: Dennis Masuda asked direction of donated funds, priority of buildings. Mary explained main budget is dedicated solely to preservation. The aim is to preserve on site, or relocate. There is no stated priority of buildings at this time, as the group of buildings can qualify as a historic district.

**Public Outreach update**

There is continued contact by individuals and groups relating to the recent **media coverage** in the Orange County Register / Huntington Beach Wave, CBS, ABC, Discover Nikkei (JANM), and Asian American News. The committee discussed how to

optimize media coverage for fundraising effort. The task force also discussed were the increased number of “likes” on the task force Facebook page and their potential reach.

The task force **City web page** is in the process of being updated to include an archive of agendas and minutes, as well as new historical photographs.

Comments: Dennis Masuda added that the **Huntington Beach Farmers Market** (Fridays, 12pm – 5pm) would donate free booth space for non-profit community groups, and that might be an opportunity for the task force to reach others in the public in an informal setting.

### **Meeting with Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum**

Mary Urashima met with the **Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum** director, at the museum site in the Fullerton Arboretum. There is interest in hosting an exhibit about Wintersburg at the museum; however the required funding to prepare an exhibit is approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000. The director stated he will discuss Wintersburg with the CSU-Fullerton history staff.

### **Japan Consul General tour of Wintersburg February 8, 2013**

The upcoming tour of Wintersburg by **Consul General Jun Niimi** of Japan was discussed, with specific suggestions from Doug Erber, Japan American Society of Southern California, regarding additional invited parties and suggested protocol. The process for liability forms required by Rainbow Environmental Services was discussed. Mary Urashima discussed the invited media, and noted the tour falls on the exact one-year anniversary of the Historic Wintersburg blog.

### **California Historic Preservation annual conference, May 1-3, Orange County**

Mary Urashima updated the task force on the half day workshop about Wintersburg to be part of the **California Historic Preservation Association** annual conference, in Orange County. The half-day workshop will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3, and will be attended by historic preservationists, City preservation officers, architects and other preservationists from around California. Elaine Parker has secured the Central Library conference rooms for the post-tour panel discussion. The panel discussion will include Mary Urashima, Art Hansen, Sue Gordon, Donna Graves, and Dennis Masuda. Phil Chinn suggested a building clean out occur prior to the workshop.

### **Potential relocation sites / matrix update**

Council Member Joe Shaw was absent and there was no report on any contact with Golden West College.

Council Member Matt Harper was absent and there was no report on any contact with Orange County Supervisor John Moorlach.

The task force reviewed the updated relocation matrix. Information regarding the City-owned mobile home park (on park land) was reviewed, along with an aerial photograph, noting the specific lots that will become available in the near future.

### **Cal Humanities Grant application**

Mary Urashima explained she is reviewing the requirements for the grant to determine if the task force qualifies. The funding could be used to prepare an informational video about the property and its history.

### **National Trust endangered sites list**

At the urging of staff from the National Historic Trust in Washington, D.C., Mary Urashima is preparing an application for their annual "11 Most Endangered" list. Designation on this annual list can assist grant and fundraising efforts.

### **Wintersburg archival material**

The request for the return of ephemera and archive materials taken from the Wintersburg property by Historic Resources Board members was discussed. Mayor Boardman made the request in person at the last HRB meeting. It is expected the items will be returned at the next HRB meeting in February.

### **Roundtable: task force members update on their activities for 2013**

Mayor Connie Boardman researched Honda regarding their philanthropic focus; they are not funding history or humanities projects. Sue Gordon suggested Toyota corporate donation potential. Doug Erber suggested Union Bank be approached, due to their support to Lil Tokyo Reporter and Japanese American Society Annual Golf Tournament. Doug Erber also discussed contacting George Takei. Dennis Masuda will reach out to Tanaka and Sakioka families. Stacha Khatib suggested offering materials for local school curriculum and representation at yearly HBHS Alumni Banquet.

### **Next meeting date**

Next meeting date is tentatively set for **Friday, Feb. 22**. The task force is trying to establish a consistent day and time to encourage participation.

### **Action items**

The task force needs to pursue support for the building clean out, prior to the May 3 half day workshop.