

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting - May 14, 2014 - 6:00pm
Fortuna Depot Museum - 3 Park Street

I. OPENING

Regular meeting called to order 5:59pm by Commissioner O'Hara. Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call.

Commissioners Present

Susan O'Hara / Doug Mooney / Toni Scolari

Council Liaison

Tami Trent

Staff Present

Regan Candelario / Mike Johnson / Alex Service

II. ORAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 12, 2014 Historical Commission meeting and the April 9, 2014 special Historical Commission meeting were approved. – M/S/C – Mooney/Scolari

IV. BUSINESS

A. NWPRR Arcadia Book

Commissioner O'Hara and Curator Service reported on the talk they presented at the Depot Museum on Saturday, May 3. The talk was on the history of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, using photographs from the Depot's recent Arcadia publication. There was a small but interested audience of eight people, and a lively discussion of a number of aspects of local history. Commissioners discussed topic ideas for future talks. It was agreed that such events are a positive means of furthering the museum's mission and help to raise the Depot Museum's visibility in the community.

B. Museum Security

Public Works General Services Superintendant Mike Johnson reported that the purchase of the security camera system for the Depot Museum is underway. He has discussed the project with City Manager Candelario and had a meeting with IT personnel to discuss networking the system. The project is moving ahead.

C. Volunteer Recruitment for Summer Season

In June, July and August the museum is open for our summer hours, 12:00—4:30 seven days a week. Curator Service reported that Mike Murray will again be staffing the museum one day per week. She has calls in to recent summer volunteers Vicki Lovett and Diana and Mike Record to confirm their availability for this season. City Manager Candelario said that if further volunteers are needed to cover the summer opening hours, Curator Service should send him information on the volunteer duties and he will promote the Depot's volunteer recruitment effort.

D. Planning for Upcoming Special Events

Discussion was held of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad 100th anniversary celebration planned by the Timber Heritage Association, the Clarke Museum and other local historical organizations. This will be a street fair in Eureka on October 25, taking place in front of the Clarke Museum and on surrounding Old Town streets. The Timber Heritage Association will move track into place and offer speeder car rides. Local historical organizations are encouraged to have booths at the event. The Depot Museum will have a booth for book-signing/sales of our NWPRR Arcadia book. At previous meetings there had been discussion of holding a "Fortuna Expo of Trains" model railroading event at Rohner Park on the weekend of October 11, to tie in with the NWP anniversary. It was decided that unless detailed planning for this event is underway very soon, the event will be cancelled, as the logistics seem too extensive for the amount of time remaining. It was decided that instead, the Fortuna Depot Museum will host an event on Thursday, October 23, 2014, the precise 100th anniversary of the NWP completion celebrations. This will be an evening event, a 100th birthday party wine and cheese-type celebration at the Depot Museum.

E. Potential Accessions/De-Accessions

No de-accessions were proposed. The following accessions were proposed:

From Dave Heinle, Sue Louk and Carol Lang: Three antique dolls from the McCloskey family, Fortuna (2 composition baby dolls, one marked "Ideal Doll," circa 1920s – 1940s; bisque doll w/ two wigs, clothing, toys of later date, other accessories, and letter describing how to attach the wigs to the doll's head. Doll dates from the 1910s.) From Lauri McCombs: Collection of photographs taken by Bill Cotnam ("Bangkok Bill") during Fortuna Rodeo Week, 2006—2010. Many photographs taken at Parlato's Restaurant. According to Ms. McCombs' note on the donation form, "Bill Cotnam (Bangkok Bill) comes during rodeo every year and takes pictures of the townspeople." From Tanya Tuey:

Briefcase advertising Danforth-Hill Tailoring Co., Chicago, IL, and assorted documents, photographs, postcards and other items related to the D. A. Thomson family (lived in Scotia, Alton and Eureka). Highlights include: 4 early 20th century photographs on cardboard backing, one labeled "Metropolitan 1911" and one showing students at Pepperwood School, October 25, 1905; Survey of Property of Margaret A. Thomson and Hydesville Christian Church, February 28, 1957; 18 postcards (most of Humboldt County scenes) and two photographs, early 20th century; Autograph album of Mary L. Thomson, Christmas 1888; U. S. Gage Co. tire pressure gauge and leather case; Newspaper clipping "Fortuna Man Wins Wings" on 2nd Lt. Floyd W. Frank; Humboldt Standard newspaper 3/5/1957, headlines "Missing Person Sought in CC Murder" and "Rains Threaten Flood". From Bert Walker: Collection of family razors: his own circa 1962, his grandfather's circa 1950s, straight razor in case (unknown owner), circa 1980s College of the Redwoods promotional razor, Rhodes Kriss Kross razor strop in box, plus advertisement found in box for "Clairvoyant Spiritual Medium" in Pasadena

Curator Service recommended that the proposed accessions be accepted into the museum collection, and the commission voted to follow the Curator's recommendation. – M/S/C – Scolari/Mooney

V. REPORTS

A. Chairman Report

Commissioner O'Hara returned briefly to the topic of the "Evening at the Depot Museum" talk on the NWPR book. The event went well, and we will have our next program in this series in the fall.

B. Recreation Office Supervisor Report

City Manager Candelario and Public Works General Services Superintendent Johnson gave reports, in the absence of Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Office Supervisor Boone. Manager Candelario spoke on topics that will be on the agenda of the upcoming Fortuna City Council meeting. One agenda item is the draft of next fiscal year's city budget. A deficit is still projected for next year. Also on the agenda is the report the City has received from a consultant looking at ways to increase revenue. Another agenda item is the report from the recent Grand Jury investigation, and the Council's official response. Manager Candelario encouraged the Historical Commissioners to feel free to contact him with any questions or concerns they would like to discuss. General Services Superintendent Johnson encouraged Commissioner O'Hara and Curator Service to take advantage of the publicity opportunity of the upcoming Art and Wine in the Park at Rohner Park to do a book-signing for the NWPRR book. It was agreed that a book-signing will be held at the museum on that afternoon, Sunday June 8.

C. Curator Report

Curator Service led a brief discussion of the submitted staff report for March—April 2014.

D. Commissioner Reports or Comments

Commissioner Scolari: Asked about selling copies of the NWPRR Arcadia book, on behalf of the museum gift shop, at off-site locations such as her Art and Old Things antique store. Discussion led to the conclusion that this would be fully appropriate, and that it would be a great means of continuing to raise the museum's profile in the community and to raise funds for the museum.

Commissioner Mooney: No further report

VI. ADJOURN

Next Historical Commission meeting, Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Depot Museum. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m. – M/S/C – Mooney/Scolari

Respectfully submitted by
Alex Service, Depot Museum Curator