

# **Fortuna Historical Commission**

## **Regular Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.**

**3 Park Street – Fortuna Depot Museum**

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*We May Disagree, But We Will Be Respectful of One Another  
All Comments Will Be Directed to the Issue at Hand, and Addressed to the Commission  
Personal Attacks are Unacceptable*

***The Commission May Take Action on any Item on this Agenda.***

**I. CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL 6:00 PM**

<b><u>Commissioners</u></b>	<b><u>Staff</u></b>
Chair Susan O'Hara	City Manager Regan Candelario
Vice Chair Toni Scolari	Deputy Director of Public Works/Parks Kevin Carter
Commissioner Jean Giannini	Depot Museum Curator Alex Service
Commissioner Mike Murray	<b><u>Council Representative</u></b>
Commissioner Pam Zana	Councilmember Linda Gardner
	Councilmember Doug Strehl (alternate)

**II. ORAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

*Members of the Public may be heard on any item of interest not on the Public Meeting Agenda. Speakers addressing the Commission will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Be advised that, by law, the Commissioners can only deliberate or take action on items that are included on the agenda.*

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Report on *Mills of Humboldt County* Arcadia Publishing Book Project
- B. Report on "Grave Matters and Untimely Departures" Cemetery Tour

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

*These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Any member of the Commission may pull a particular item for further discussion.*

- 1. Fortuna Historical Commission Meeting Minutes for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 2. Staff Report: September-October 2015

**V. BUSINESS**

- A. History-Related Events that Could Utilize River Lodge Conference Center (Discussion Item)
- B. Planning for 2015 Holiday Season Displays (Discussion Item)
- C. Planning for Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event (Discussion Item)
- D. Downtown Fortuna "Then and Now" Historical Guidebook (Discussion Item)
- E. Accessions/De-Accessions (Action Item)

**VI. STAFF REPORTS**

- 1. Fortuna Depot Museum Curator Report
- 2. City of Fortuna Staff Report

**VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*At this time, members of the Commission may consider or request items to be placed on a future agenda through a consensus of the majority.*

**IX. ADJOURN**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, any non-confidential documents or writings that the City distributes, less than 72 hours before a regular meeting, to all or a majority of the legislative body's members must be made available to members of the public at the same time as the distribution. Documents and information related to the agenda topics are available for review at City Hall, 621 11<sup>th</sup> Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Members of the public are invited to come to the meeting and comment. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 725-7600. Notification prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

**Minutes of the Fortuna Historical Commission  
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - 6:00 p.m., Fortuna Depot Museum, 3 Park St. at Rohner Park**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair O’Hara called the Public Session to order at 6:00 PM

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Chair Susan O’Hara	City Manager Regan Candelario
Vice Chair Toni Scolari	Deputy Director of Public Works/Parks Kevin Carter
Commissioner Jean Giannini (absent)	Depot Museum Curator Alex Service
Commissioner Mike Murray	<b>Council Representative</b>
Commissioner Pam Zana	Councilmember Linda Gardner

**II. ORAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. REPORT ON *MILLS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY* ARCADIA PUBLISHING BOOK PROJECT**

Chair O’Hara reported that according to the latest communication from Arcadia Publishing, the proofs of *Mills of Humboldt County* will be returned to us for editing around September 28. The information publicized through the materials on this Historical Commission meeting led to Chair O’Hara being interviewed by Herman Meier, a photogjournalist with NorthCoast News. The interview focused on the forthcoming book and the exhibit plans it has inspired, including interpretation of the so-called “great shingle-making district of Fortuna.” Mr. Meier plans a further interview with Curator Service in about a week’s time, to focus on the call for photographs for the second volume of *Mills of Humboldt County* (circa 1910—1970).

**B. “GRAVE MATTERS AND UNTIMELY DEPARTURES” CEMETERY TOUR UPDATE**

Councilmember Gardner reported that she and Commissioner Zana met with the Fortuna Cemetery District board, who are grateful that they stepped forward to take the responsibility of being co-producers. Cemetery District Board members Charlie Giannini and Kent Wrede will drive the “people mover” for the event. Gardner, Zana and Curator Service, the Grave Matters producers, also met with past producers Erin Dunn and Ross Rowley. The posters will be available in time to be up for Apple Harvest weekend. Commissioner Scolari volunteered to help with distribution of the event posters in late September.

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and approve minutes of Fortuna Historical Commission meeting July 8, 2015 and staff report for July-August 2015

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was heard.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Commissioner Murray moved, seconded by Commissioner Scolari to approve the minutes of July 8, 2015 and the staff report for July-August 2015. Voice vote.

AYES: Commissioners Murray, O’Hara, Scolari and Zana

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Giannini

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried 4-0

**V. BUSINESS**

**A. PLANNING FOR 2015 HOLIDAY SEASON DISPLAYS (DISCUSSION ITEM)**

This year's holiday season displays, as discussed at the previous Fortuna Historical Commission meeting, will have the theme "Christmas at the Star Hotel." These displays are among the upcoming museum activities that Chair O'Hara discussed in her NorthCoast News interview. In discussion Chair O'Hara mentioned that the New Years holiday should also be featured. Curator Service agreed, as local newspapers from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries report on New Year celebrations and tell much about this region's past New Years traditions. One of the earliest newspaper articles to mention the Star Hotel describes the festivities at the hotel at New Year 1878. In discussion it was agreed that each room's holiday displays will focus on the celebrations at the Star Hotel in different years. A large portion of the exhibit installation will take place November 28 and 29, the weekend after Thanksgiving.

**B. FORTUNA DEPOT MUSEUM GOALS DOCUMENT/LONG-RANGE PLAN (ACTION ITEM)**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Goals/Long-Range Plan document as a planning tool for the Fortuna Depot Museum

**STAFF REPORT:**

Curator Service led discussion of the Goals/Long-Range Plan document, developed in a meeting between Curator Service, Chair O'Hara, City Manager Candelario and Deputy Director of Public Works/Parks Carter. Part of the purpose of this document is to make city personnel aware of the museum's needs and goals, to ensure that these are factored into city planning and are incorporated in a timely fashion into the city budgeting process. In discussion, the need for an exterior bulletin board/informational kiosk at the Depot Museum was added as a project for the current or next fiscal year. Other suggestions for short-term projects which developed during the discussion were to install cork board with a plexiglass cover in the caboose for ease of changing out displays, and to install etched plastic "Keep Off" signs in the caboose. Another suggestion was to move the Depot Museum donations box to the same area of the front room as the guestbook, for greater visibility, and possibly replace the opaque box with one made of clear material so that the seed money can easily be seen.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was heard.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Commissioner Murray moved, seconded by Commissioner Scolari, to adopt the Fortuna Depot Museum Goals/Long-Range Plan (with the addition of an exterior bulletin board/information kiosk at the museum as a short-term goal) as a planning tool for the Fortuna Depot Museum, to be reviewed, revised and updated as needed each January. Voice vote.

AYES: Commissioners Murray, O'Hara, Scolari and Zana

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Giannini

ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried 4-0

**C. ACCESSIONS/DE-ACCESSIONS (ACTION ITEM)**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and approve accession of proposed items into museum collection.

**STAFF REPORT:**

No de-accessions were proposed at this time. Curator Service presented the following potential accessions: From Susan O'Hara: local history booklets and ephemera, many from the collection of her mother, Margaret Pritchard; from Alex Service: photographs and ephemera from local businesses, purchased at swap meet during Fortuna Redwood Auto Xpo; from Toni Scolari: *Fortuna Tribune* newspaper 8/25/1948; from the Humboldt County Historical Society: documents and ephemera relating to Fortuna-area businesses, de-accessioned from the HCHS collection; from Constance E. Farrar: Eel River Valley area history books, documents and photographs from the collection of her father, Charles Roberts Farrar. The following additional accessions, not included in Staff Report C: Accessions/De-Accessions, were also presented for

consideration: from Dorothy Lancaster, folding music stand used by Eel River Valley area bands circa 1950s (same model as used by Fortuna Union High School dance band in that era); from Alison Grundman: FUHS yearbooks from the collection of Lola Cathey.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was heard.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Commissioner Scolari moved, seconded by Commissioner Murray, to accept the proposed accessions into the Fortuna Depot Museum collection. Voice vote.

AYES: Commissioners Murray, O'Hara, Scolari, Zana

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Giannini

ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried 4-0

**VI. STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Fortuna Depot Museum Curator Report**

Curator Service's report included the return to winter opening hours on September 1 and a reminder of the upcoming Pierson Building Center "Celebrating Life in Our Humboldt County" talk by Jerry Rohde at the museum at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 16.

**2. City of Fortuna Staff Report**

Development Director Carter and City Manager Candelario updated the Historical Commission on the development process of the LED informational sign at the entrance to Rohner Park proposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Deputy Director Carter has drafted policies on the sign which have gone to the Parks and Recreation Commission for revision and will then be brought before the City Council.

**VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

None.

**VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Items brought forward for inclusion on the next agenda are: holiday season displays including setting the dates for display installation, setting the date and planning for annual volunteer appreciation event, and the "then and now" downtown Fortuna guidebook project.

**IX. ADJOURN**

Commissioner Murray moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Scolari. Voice vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Alex Service, Fortuna Depot Museum Curator  
Thru: Linda McGill, City Clerk

**STAFF REPORT: SEPT.—OCT. 2015**

Museum Monthly Report

November 3, 2015

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**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Month: September 2015**

Balance in register	\$163.32
Donations	\$32.25
Sales / Taxes	\$160.34
Other	\$0.00
Less Deposits	\$230.91
Ending Balance in register	\$125.00

**Month: October 2015**

Balance in register	\$125.00
Donations	\$150.17
Sales / Taxes	\$47.79
Other	\$140.00
Less Deposits	\$283.23
Ending Balance in register	\$179.73

**ACTIVITIES IN MUSEUM:**

SEPTEMBER: Visitor count was 203. The September visitor totals for recent years are: 2014: 206; 2013: 197; 2012: 325; 2011: 317; 2010: 181; 2009: 73 (museum only open on weekends during September 2009); 2008: 239.

California: Arcata, Burnt Ranch, Carlotta, Eureka, Fortuna, Los Angeles, McKinleyville, Myers Flat, Red Bluff, Redding, Rio Dell, Sacramento, San Diego, San Martin, Scotia, Shasta Lake, Stockton, Sunnyvale, Weott, and Willow Creek

States: Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington

Overseas: Germany and the Netherlands

OCTOBER: Visitor count was 309. This is our highest October visitation total in recent years (including 63 people on a Hydesville Elementary School field trip and 21 people in attendance at a local history presentation held October 16). Recent years' October visitation totals were: 2014: 197, 2013: 227, 2012: 228, 2011: 257, 2010: 201, 2009 (museum closed for half of month): 65, 2008: 255.

California: Carmel Valley, Crescent City, Eureka, Fairhaven, Fortuna, Fresno, Hydesville, Kelseyville, Livermore, Lodi, Los Angeles, McKinleyville, Rancho Corona, Redding, Rio Dell, San Lorenzo, Santa Rosa, Scotia, Susanville and Trabuco Canyon

States: Oregon and Maryland

Overseas: The Netherlands and Switzerland

Our October visitation total included 63 people who toured the museum with the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Hydesville Elementary School on October 19. In addition, on October 16 there we had 21 people in attendance at Jerry Rohde's local history presentation "Both Sides of the Bluff: How the Eel River Valley Connected with Humboldt Bay," part of the "Celebrating Life in Our Humboldt County" series sponsored by Pierson Building Center.

The Relic Accumulators' Club exhibit for September featured a club member's collection of local commercial fishing memorabilia, and the club exhibit for October featured a club member's collection of woodwork, including redwood burl souvenirs carved in the 1940s for a local redwood novelties shop. In October we installed in the fourth room of the museum a small seasonal exhibit of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Halloween and Thanksgiving postcards.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** *The Botanical Guardian*, Humboldt Botanical Gardens newsletter Summer 2015; *Redwood Researcher*, Redwood Genealogical Society newsletter August 2015; *The Northwesterner*, NWPRRHS journal Fall-Winter 2015; *The Headlight*, NWPRRHS newsletter Sept.-Oct. 2015; Blue Lake Museum Newsletter 2015-2016; Humboldt County Historical Society *Humboldt Historian*, summer and fall 2015 issues; Clarke Museum newsletter Autumn 2015

# **STAFF REPORT**

## ***Fortuna Historical Commission Business***

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**DATE:** November 11th, 2015

**TO:** Honorable Chair and Commission Members

**FROM:** Alex Service, Fortuna Depot Museum Curator

**THRU:** Regan M. Candelario, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Accessions/De-Accessions**

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and approve the accession of specific artifacts presented as potential additions to the Fortuna Depot Museum collection, as recommended by Fortuna Depot Museum curator.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

No de-accessions are proposed at this time. The following potential accessions have been donated to the Fortuna Depot Museum. *From the Humboldt County Historical Society:* items de-accessioned from the HCHS collection: documents and ephemera relating to Fortuna-area businesses. *From Jan McCauley:* FUHS girls' school uniform. *From Laurel Mendes:* 1939 Stromberg-Carlson television, belonged to her grandfather, Henry Wagner. *From Dorothy Lancaster:* Humboldt County Science Series by Doris Kildale-Niles, 1983 (HSU/Humboldt Area Foundation), fifteen volumes. *From Ted Silva:* Personal safety alert alarm used by Fortuna Volunteer Firefighters circa 1980s.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None.

### **RECOMMENDED COMMISSION ACTION:**

- Receive staff presentation and review Commission questions with staff
- Open Public Comment
- Close Public Comment
- Motion to approve the accession of donated artifacts presented as potential additions to the Fortuna Depot Museum collection, as recommended by Depot Museum curator: Voice Vote.