

FORTUNA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
January 9, 2013 at 7pm
Fortuna Depot Museum

I. OPENING

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 by Commissioner O'Hara. Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Susan O'Hara/Erin Dunn/Doug Mooney/Dave Stockton

STAFF PRESENT:

Fortuna City Manager Regan Candelario/ /Recreation Office Supervisor Christina Boone/Fortuna Depot Museum Curator Alex Service

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON:

Doug Strehl (outgoing), Tami Trent

GUESTS:

Mike O'Hara

II. ORAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 14, 2012, M/S/C, Dunn/Mooney

IV. BUSINESS

A. Election of Commission Officers

The current officers are Susan O'Hara, President, Doug Mooney, Vice-President, Erin Dunn, Public Relations. Commissioner Dunn moved that Commissioners O'Hara and Mooney remain as Vice-President; Commissioner Mooney moved that Commissioner Dunn remain as Public Relations officer. Commissioner Page sent her apologies for absence at this meeting and stated that she supports whatever slate is nominated. The current slate of officers was retained, M/S/C Dunn/Mooney and Mooney/Dunn.

B. Report on Holiday Season Exhibits and Events

Commissioner O'Hara and Curator Service reported on the Volunteer Appreciation Events, Garden Club Home Tour, holiday exhibits and visitation totals. The visitor count of 306 people in December is our second-highest December visitation total in the past five years, reflecting the boost in attendance due to the museum's inclusion on the itinerary of the Fortuna Garden Club's holiday home tour. This year 84 visitors signed the museum guest book on December 12, the day of the home tour. Also included in our 2012 December visitor totals are twenty 2nd and 3rd grade students from Commissioner O'Hara's class at Rio Dell Elementary School. Commissioner O'Hara shared photographs from her class tour. Supervisor Boone asked that Commissioner O'Hara send the photographs to her for posting on the museum's web page, if the appropriate photo use permissions are in place for the students in the photos.

C. Electronic Form Purchase of Humboldt Beacon Archive

Curator Service reported that we have been contacted by the McLean Foundation to let us know about a change in their grant cycle deadlines. The foundation board is currently reviewing their grant schedule and policies, and is temporarily not accepting grant applications during this review period. They will contact us when they are again accepting applications. Commissioner Dunn, who is also on the McLean Foundation board, shared that the board is considering accepting grant applications throughout the year, rather than continuing to have two application cycles. Commissioner O'Hara explained the background of the Humboldt Beacon archive project for Councilmember Trent, the incoming City Council liaison to the Historical Commission. We are seeking to obtain the archive for public research use as well as for in-house research for exhibits, publication projects and the Fortuna Cemetery District fund-raising cemetery tours. We plan to have the archive accessible on a pc linked

to a printer which members of the public can use to print material for a small fee.

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D. Upcoming "Conversations at the Depot" Programs

Commissioner Dunn reported that she is pursuing funding for the program; she is working on grant applications to Humboldt Redwoods and Women in Timber. In discussion, Commissioner O'Hara mentioned that Loberta Gwin, who is working on a book on Rohnerville, would be a good person to have come speak at one of the "Conversations" programs.

E. 2013 Exhibits

Curator Service opened the discussion of potential topics for our seasonally rotating exhibits in 2013. In May we will do, as usual for the past several years, a "100 years later" exhibit on the Fortuna Union High School graduating classes of 2013 and 1913. Commissioner O'Hara suggested that we do a fishing season exhibit in the fall. Commissioner Dunn asked if there are any particular local anniversaries coming up in 2013; Curator Service will research this. In discussion, it was agreed that it would be good to do a larger, more focused exhibit on Rohnerville. Currently there are various Rohnerville-related items on display, but no specific Rohnerville exhibit. (This could tie in with a "Conversations at the Depot" with Loberta Gwin on Rohnerville.) Commissioner Mooney suggested an exhibit(s) on service clubs and/or 4-H. Supervisor Boone has contact information for Fortuna 4-H. Commissioner Dunn queried whether we ever do exhibit exchanges with the Ferndale Museum. This is not something we have done, at least in recent years, but it would be worth investigating. Mayor Strehl mentioned that former U.S. Representative Don Clausen is living at Sequoia Springs and has been very active with the Ferndale Museum; potentially he might be a speaker or perhaps the focus of an exhibit. Curator Service mentioned the possibility of doing exhibits to tie in with Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March; Mayor Strehl suggested that Toddy Thomas would be an appropriate focus of an exhibit tying in with Black History Month. Commissioner Dunn requested that we keep a log of previous exhibits including photos, so that we have a historical record of this which can be checked with in planning new exhibits.

F. Arcadia Publishing Project

Commissioner O'Hara shared that she and Curator Service are in negotiation with Arcadia Publishing to do another book in their Images of America book, with the royalties to benefit the Depot Museum. The two topics O'Hara and Service are discussing with Arcadia are the mills of Humboldt County and the northern end of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad. Curator Service reported that the museum's scanner has broken; IT tech Travis Vanhoorebeke of Nylex has examined it and found no specific cause for the breakage, merely that it has worn out. He recommends as replacement that we purchase Epson Perfection V600 flatbed scanner. Mayor Strehl suggested that Curator Service contact Mr. Vanhoorebeke to check on whether any particular model of scanner is best suited to a high volume of use, and purchase that model. Commissioner Dunn moved that the Commission approve purchase of the scanner for book projects and other work at the museum, purchasing the model that best fits the museum's needs. M/S/C, Dunn/Mooney.

G. Potential Accessions/De-Accessions

No de-accessions were proposed. The following potential new donations were presented: **From Clarke Historical Museum, Eureka:** Items brought in for potential donation to Clarke Museum, which more closely match the mission of the Fortuna Depot Museum: Documents and photographs relating to the family of Effie Augusta Barber Barnes (1897—1987), her husband Walter Paul Barnes (1890—1965), and their sons Louis Paul Barnes (b. circa 1926) and Walter Lowell Barnes (b. circa 1932), all Fortuna residents. Includes marriage license & certificate, mortgages and leases, insurance papers, tax papers, assorted business receipts, hand-written genealogical record. **From Dana A. Webb:** Eel River Sawmills, Inc. notepad with photograph of Caboose # 11. **From Darleene Sampson (Retired former FUHS librarian):** FUHS Homecoming 50th anniversary t-shirt, FUHS graduation robe worn by Darleene Sampson's son Brian Sampson, Class of 2005 Valedictorian, assorted Humboldt County newspapers and newspaper clippings, largely relating to the 1964 flood. Includes 1964 flood scrapbook compiled by the FUHS General Studies class, 1964-65. **From Brian Bishop:** Large horse shoe found in brother's back yard, Rohnerville. **From Ed Paul:** 27 in. x 31 in. Pacific madrone wood frame with four mounted 8 x 10 in. color photographs labeled "Fortuna Sawmill,"

"Redcrest Sawmill and Millwork Plant," "Alton Whole Log Chip Plant" and "Fairhaven Power Cogeneration Plant." Circa 1995. Presented by Eel River Sawmills, Inc. as customer awards titled "Timber Industry Working Partners Awards." From Ruth Teasley (Librarian of Redwood Genealogical Society): Collection

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of Eel River Valley history-related materials collected by Ruth Brinks, along with bookcase in which they were stored. Ms. Brinks compiled the index of the Susie Baker Fountain papers, and much of the materials in this collection appears to be copied from the SBF papers. Ms. Brinks gave this collection to Ms. Teasley, who no longer has the room to store this material in her house. Ms. Teasley has given her permission that if items in this collection are found to duplicate material already in the Fortuna Depot Museum reference room collection, the duplicates may be sold to benefit the museum or otherwise disposed of at the Depot Museum's discretion. Collection consists of 37 binders along with multiple folders, loose papers and books. Also two boxes of card catalog files; may either be index of this collection or partial index of Susie Baker Fountain papers.

Curator Service recommended accepting all, with the following caveats: some newspapers in the Darleene Sampson may be duplicates, in which case we should offer them back to Ms. Sampson and otherwise dispose of them if she does not want them returned, when they are found to be duplicates; duplicate materials among the Ruth Brinks collection will be disposed of at the discretion of the museum. The Commission requested that Curator Service contact Ms. Sampson for biographical information on her son to accompany the accession of his commencement robe. Commissioner Mooney moved accepting Curator Service's recommendations, M/S/C, Mooney/Dunn.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

Reports submitted to the Commission were accepted.

VI. REPORTS

A. Chairman Report

Commissioner O'Hara thanked Curator Service for welcoming and conducting the tour of the museum for her class on December 21.

B. Recreation Office Supervisor Report

Supervisor Boone shared that this is a busy time in the Parks Department, with youth and adult basketball programs. Craig Mesman, former city carpenter, has recently been hired as a part-time Senior Bus driver. Sally Klinetobe, receptionist at the park office, will be retiring on March 1st after 21 years of service. The position announcement for the opening due to Sally's retirement went out today and interviews will be conducted soon.

C. Curator Report

Expressed happiness at having Craig Mesman back on city staff; he was the city worker who restored the Rohner House mantelpiece after its donation to the museum in 2010. Requested direction on amount of money to be spent on purchase/installation of plexiglass to block off the entrances to the observation tower in the caboose and to cover the barbed wire display that is within reach of visitors. The Commission confirmed that the purchase has been approved, and directed Curator Service and Supervisor Boone to proceed with this to meet the needs of the project. Supervisor Boone will follow up with Pierre Cousineau of the maintenance staff to move forward the purchase and installation.

Commissioner Reports or Comments:

Commissioner Dunn: Welcomed Councilmember Trent as Council Liaison to the Historical Commission and thanked Mayor Strehl for his many years of work and dedication to the Commission. **Commissioner O'Hara** seconded these words of appreciation for Mayor Strehl's ongoing support, which has made a great difference to the Depot Museum. Mayor Strehl has been the liaison since he first joined the City Council.

VII. Adjournment:

Next Historical Commission meeting, Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot Museum. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m., M/S/C, Dunn/Mooney