

**AIA Preservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
AIA San Diego Conference Room
233 A Street, Suite 200, San Diego, CA
April 6, 2017**

Committee Members Present:

Sharon Smith- Chair
Andy Bowen– Secretary
David Marshall
Miriam Martinez

1. Call to Order: 12:03 PM

2. Approval of Minutes:

Sharon moved that the minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting minutes be approved as amended. Andy seconded. The motion was carried.

3. Old Business:

a. Joint Meeting

Sharon will ask Sandra to set up a planning meeting with representatives of the other groups.

b. Nomination of Irving Gill for the AIA Gold Medal and/or FAIA Status

Item is tabled to a future meeting.

c. Horton Plaza Park Tour

David has sent a reminder on March 21 to Kim Brewer, his contact at Westfield Horton Plaza, regarding scheduling. He asked Kim to give us open dates in May for the tour. Daniel Kay, Civic San Diego's project manager for Horton Plaza Park, would like to participate.

d. San Ysidro Customs House Tour

Miriam reported that submittals are two weeks behind schedule and that the end of June would be good time for a hard-hat tour. It is likely the project won't be finished until the end of the year. The project involves

construction of a new building as well as preservation of the exterior of a two-story Spanish Colonial Revival structure built in the early 1930's.

e. Future Topics for Preservation Committee Meetings

In order for topics of discussion to be adequately publicized and speakers lined up, it was decided to have a topic every third meeting (quarterly). Our June 1 meeting will be the debut of the Quarterly Topic meeting.

4. New Business:

a. Mission Beach Boardwalk Tour

Heather Crane of IS Architecture will be conducting a tour of the Mission Beach Boardwalk, Seawall, and Lamppost Reconstruction on April 18 at 4 p.m.

b. April's Topic of the Month: Goals of the Preservation Committee

There was discussion on how to increase attendance at our meetings. Sharon will ask those currently on our mailing list if there is interest in holding our meetings in the evening instead of at lunchtime.

Miriam presented the committee with the findings of her research into increasing participation in our meetings. In brief:

*We may wish to reach out to former members to find out why they don't attend.

*We can ask potential members why they might come.

*One question we can ask ourselves is, what kind of members do we want?

*Some committees have defined tasks or a purpose for meeting.

Historically, the committee has directed its energies towards tours, ongoing issues with the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board, and the organization and local support of the California Preservation Foundation's 2015 Conference (held at Liberty Station).

Sharon recited the Preservation Committee's mission statement:

Mission:

The mission of the Preservation Committee is to be the source of San Diego architectural preservation knowledge and information to the profession and public; to offer professional insight to the AIASD Board of Directors on significant projects and issues involving preservation and its influence on the built environment in San Diego County; to expand the profile of preservation in San Diego; and to facilitate dialogue between AIASD and the State and County about preservation. The Preservation Committee will

support the mission and goals of the AIASD through providing current information on preservation and adaptive reuse; which has become more prevalent in our urban environment due to an emphasis on infill, conservation of resources, and increased urban density.

Buu Huynh will post the mission statement on the Preservation Committee's page of the AIA San Diego web site.

Sharon noted that our committee's mission ties in with those of AIA San Diego's Housing Task Force. Organized by 2017 AIA SD President Phil Bona, the Task Force will address housing affordability in San Diego County.

c. City of San Diego Human Resources Board (HRB)

There was discussion on the mayor's reappointment of Tom Larimer to the board and the replacement of Courtney Coyle by David McCullough as chair. These moves were done behind the scenes, with no discussion with or input from SOHO or other preservation groups. Preservation Committee members are encouraged to make their views regarding the HRB known to their City Council representatives.

d. James Hubbell Residence- future sketching event

Sharon spoke with Jim Hubbell about a freehand drawing / sketching event held recently at his residence in Santa Ysabel. The event was poorly attended because of bad weather. Jim is willing to open his home to the Preservation Committee for a similar event. While not strictly historical, the Hubbell Residence is widely considered a landmark due to its unique and beautiful design. If our committee pursues this event, Andy suggested enhancing the historical preservation aspects of the outing with stops at nearby historical sites such as the Santa Ysabel Store or the Warner-Carrillo Ranch House. We could co-sponsor an event.

5. Other News:

- David noted that yesterday the City Council voted to allow demolition of the **California Theater**. The approved project includes the reconstruction of the Fourth Avenue block. SOHO will litigate on the basis that the Environmental Review of the project was inadequate. David's firm, Heritage Architecture and Planning, did the HABS documentation of the theater but withdrew from the project once it became clear the client was focusing on demolition.
- **Qualcomm Stadium** has been in the news lately. Although the City of San Diego has not invited any proposals for the site, several have come forward. A plan by Doug Manchester would not demolish the existing stadium, but it would radically

alter its appearance by removing the ramps and escalators and adding a new exterior skin; only the light standards would be preserved. There is no current proposal for the Qualcomm site that preserves the stadium.

- Miriam and Andy both attended **OH! San Diego**, the Open House event organized by the San Diego Architectural Foundation that was held March 25 and 26. Many of the venues featured were creative and resourceful examples of adaptive reuse.

6. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned: 1:03 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be May 4, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Bowen AIA
Secretary