

**CITY OF SANTA MARIA
LANDMARK COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 9, 2008
City Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order:**

Committee chair Judi Kincaid called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. **Roll Call:**

Judi Kincaid, Chair	Present
Jim O'Neill, Secretary	Present
Dick Hall	Present
Marjorie Martin	Present
JoAnn Wilson	Present

Ms. Kincaid explained that, due to health considerations, she felt the need to resign as committee chair, although she intends to remain as a committee member. The committee expressed its appreciation for Ms. Kincaid's service and its regret at her resignation.

The committee elected Dick Hall as the new chair by unanimous consent.

3. **Minutes:**

By unanimous consent, the minutes of the meetings held October 14, 2008 and November 11, 2008 were approved as presented.

4. **Old Business:**

- a. **Clarification/Redrafting of Landmark Ordinance:** Dick Hall met with deputy city attorney Wendy Stockton regarding the city's ordinance governing historical landmarks, codified in chapter 8-3 of the Santa Maria Municipal Code. Ms. Stockton agreed that the guidelines in section 8-3.08 are unclear as written and she agreed to draft amendments to that section. She expects that the amendments will be presented to the city council in January or February.
- b. **Santa Maria Valley Railroad Buildings:** The committee again discussed the possibility of naming the former Santa Maria Valley Railroad buildings, specifically, the office, the enginehouse, and the freight depot, as places of historical merit. Dick Hall suggested that the committee explore creating an exterior marker or plaque that is more attractive and permanent than the framed designations that have been used in the past and have been placed inside the designated buildings, where the public does not see them.
- c. **Carnegie Library Landmark Designation:** Judi Kincaid offered to see this project through. She will report further at the January meeting.

- d. **Library Kiosks:** Dick Hall circulated a draft design for the kiosk panel regarding the Carnegie Library, created by the library's graphic artist, Deborah Hildinger. The committee found it to be very well done and attractive. Ms. Hildinger expects to complete a design of the other panel, with information concerning all the city's landmarks, after Christmas.

5. **New Business:**

- a. **Ethel Pope Auditorium:** Marjorie Martin and JoAnn Wilson will draft a document outlining reasons why the Pope auditorium should be considered for landmark status, to be presented at a future meeting.
- b. **Mills Act:** Dick Hall reported that he has been researching the Mills Act, a state law that allows cities and counties to implement a property tax abatement program for historic properties. The property owner typically agrees to restore or preserve the property, and to abide by certain restrictions on the use and modification of the property, in exchange for property tax reductions. The contracts have renewable ten-year terms. The committee will explore this further and consider recommending that it be implemented in the City of Santa Maria.

6. **Announcements:**

There were no announcements.

7. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES O'NEILL
Secretary