



General Public Comment

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
1. Richard Closson		x

PLEASE BE ADVISED

The following public comment was not received in time to process. Distribution to the Historic Landmarks Commission occurred after the meeting.

Public Comment #1

From: [Richard Closson](#)
To: [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)
Subject: Historic Structure Recognition
Date: Wednesday, June 09, 2021 2:03:51 PM

EXTERNAL

Dear Chair Grumbine and Commissioners,

I regret I tuned into the June 9 meeting 6 minutes late and business had zoomed past General Public Comment. So I'm writing to you, instead.

I often speak on a consistent concern, that is, the lack of public appreciation for the historic built environment of Santa Barbara. One of the main contributors to the problem is the minimal visible acknowledgement of structures that we believe – and you designate – to be historic. Santa Barbara residents and visitors may easily walk past a designated historic resource without realizing its significance because it has no exterior indication. About that dilemma, I have a question and a suggestion.

In 2019 I suggested to the Pearl Chase Society Board that it fund an annual Pearl Chase Award for Historic Preservation to be part of the City's Collaborative Civic Architecture Award Program. The idea of reactivating the dormant award program was picked up by HLC, I believe by Commissioner Mahan. I remember there was some prior City money budgeted and unused for the program and there were several meetings with discussions about the number, naming, and format of the awards. But I'd like to know where it stands now?

Second, a suggestion. If you visit Pacific Grove, you may see many small cottages with similar placards near their doorways, acknowledging the original owner and construction date. The story I was told is that many of those named are seamen's wives who held the original purchase titles due to the peril of their husbands' occupations and the financial risks to widows without direct ownership documentation. The placards are modest with consistent content. It is a wonderful way to alert passers-by of the historic significance of a home they might otherwise not notice.

I don't believe Santa Barbara has similar placard design guidelines for owners of Structures of Merit or Landmarks that might consistently alert others of the special nature of their buildings. Any costs would be borne by the owners, but the development of standard guidelines or suggestions would help us all, if we chose to raise the visibility of our historic resources.

Regards,
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