



City of Santa Barbara
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2021

1:30 P.M.

This Meeting was Conducted Electronically
SantaBarbaraCA.gov

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Anthony Grumbine, *Chair*
Steve Hausz, *Vice Chair*
Dennis Doordan
Michael Drury
Wendy Edmunds
Ed Lenvik
Bill Mahan
Justin Manuel
Robert Ooley

ADVISORY MEMBER: Dr. Michael Glassow

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Kristen Sneddon

PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON: Sheila Lodge

STAFF:

Tava Ostrenger, Assistant City Attorney
Irma Unzueta, Design Review Supervisor
Nicole Hernandez, Architectural Historian
Ted Hamilton, Assistant Planner
Mary Ternovskaya, Commission Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Full Commission meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Chair Grumbine.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners present: Grumbine, Hausz, Doordan, Drury (1:41 -- 5:50 p.m.), Edmunds, Lenvik, Mahan, Ooley, and Manuel (until 1:45 p.m.)

Commissioners absent: None

Staff present: Unzueta; Hernandez; Timmy Bolton, Associate Planner; Tony Ruggieri, City TV Production Supervisor; Hamilton; and Ternovskaya

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Public Comment:

No public comment.

B. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Approve the minutes of the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting of **May 26, 2021**, as submitted.

Action: Ooley/Hausz, 6/0/0. (Hausz and Manuel abstained. Drury absent.) Motion carried.

C. Approval of the Consent Calendar:

Motion: Ratify the Consent Calendar of **June 9, 2021**, as reviewed by Commissioners Mahan and Manuel.

Action: Hausz/Doordan, 9/0/0. Motion carried.

D. Announcements, requests by applicants for continuances and withdrawals, future agenda items, and appeals:

1. Commissioner Manuel announced that he will be recusing himself from hearing Item 1, Mission Canyon Bridge.
2. Commissioner Lenvik asked Staff whether the addition of solar panels on the Bank building on the corner of State Street and Victoria Street requires HLC approval. Staff clarified that solar panels are exempt from Design Review.
3. Commissioner Edmunds requested clarification regarding a potential conflict of interest with Item 1, Mission Canyon Bridge.

E. Subcommittee Reports:

No subcommittee reports.

(1:50PM) PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW

1. MISSION CANYON BRIDGE

Assessor's Parcel Number: ROW-361
Application Number: PLN2021-00253
Owner: City of Santa Barbara
Applicant: Jessica Grant, Public Works Department

(Public Works Department is requesting Historic Landmarks Commission feedback on three conceptual bridge treatment options and three conceptual roadway approach options that have been developed as part of the initial Mission Canyon Bridge Studies effort to address deficiencies in the bridge and surrounding roadway.)

Mission Canyon Bridge, a City Landmark, spans Mission Creek and is located to the north of Mission Santa Barbara and Mission Historical Park, south of Rocky Nook Park, and east of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The bridge was designed and constructed by Rowland Hazard in 1891. A wooden sidewalk, supported off the bridge, was added in 1929 and the bridge was widened on the downstream side in 1930. The Mission Canyon Bridge Studies effort kicked off in April 2019 to study existing conditions and challenges associated with the bridge. On December 2, 2020, Public Works presented the three bridge options as well as three roadway alignment options to the public during a public meeting. The options were met with mixed opinions. It is anticipated that an Environmental Impact Report will be required for a full discussion of any proposed project alternatives. Public Works Department is requesting preliminary review comments from the Historic Landmarks Commission before proceeding with a formal project application.)

Pre-Application Design Review Consultation. No final appealable action will be taken at this hearing. Mission Canyon Bridge Memo and attachments are available at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/HLC.

RECUSAL: To avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest, Commissioner Manuel recused himself from hearing this item due to a potential conflict of interest.

Actual time: 1:48 p.m.

Present: Jessica Grant, Supervising Transportation Planner, City of Santa Barbara; Michael Hausman, Wallace Group; Dace Morgan, Quincy Engineering; Paula Juelke Carr, SWCA; Gary Ruggione, SWCA; Kathleen Kennedy, Project Planner, City of Santa Barbara; Eric Goodall, Project Engineer, City of Santa Barbara; and Derrick Bailey, Principal Traffic Engineer, City of Santa Barbara

Public comment opened at 2:30 p.m.,

The following individual(s) spoke:

1. Fred Sweeney
2. Karl Hutterer
3. Lanny Ebenstein
4. Rosanne Crawford
5. Tom Jacobs
6. Shelley Bookspan
7. Lorna Moore
8. Paulina Conn
9. Peter Doctors

Written correspondence from Cars Are Basic, Francesca Galt, Rich Untermann, Charles Dabney Hurd, Susan Chamberlin, Rosanna Crawford, George and Leanne Friedenthal, Nancye Andriesse, Rita Fennell, Michael Self, Larry, Larry, and Walker Ragan, Sarah Hearon, Carol Colao, Joan Rakowski, Mare Westin, Pma Tregenza, Tina Messineo, Robert Maloy, Eric Conn, Lisa Burns, Mary Lee and Jerry P. Martin, Jack Funk, Richard Closson, Phyllis Margolis, Pamela Jameson Boehr, Hampton and Lorie Kelly, Stephen Sherrill, Victoria Ashurst, Linda Wade Williams, Joel Michaelson, Luke Swetland, Anna Marie Gott, Shelley Bookspan, Nancy Bertelsen, Curtis Ridling, Paulina Conn, Bruce Petersen, Nick Vrolyk, Christine Neuhauser, Robert Haggarty, Sylvia Sykes, Helen Couclelis, Lorna Moore, Cody Cammbell, and Ann de Forest was acknowledged.

Public comment closed at 2:55 p.m.

*** THE COMMISSION RECESSED FROM 4:48 TO 5:03 P.M. ***

Commission comments:

1. The Commission thanks Staff for their very good and extensive presentation, for looking at a variety of solutions, and for coming before the HLC early in the process.
2. Many Commissioners stated that there is a need for a pedestrian path for safety reasons along the route from the Mission to the Natural History Museum. In Option B, the pedestrian bridge solution as proposed is not acceptable. The idea of a pedestrian bridge on the west side is a possible solution to many Commissioners.

3. The general idea regarding bike and vehicle traffic is that the Commissioners do not support changing the current Mission Canyon, rural, country-road feel of the winding road. The Commission does not support the idea of straightening the road and making it more modern, the Commission prefers the way it currently curves. The Commission encourages exploration of other traffic calming and/or slowing measures such as stop signs that have a low visual impact.
4. A landscape architect and/or design professional should be engaged in the project, so the project has both engineering and design components, if this Pre-Application review becomes an actual project and proposal.
5. As a whole, the Commission sees the project site as a cultural resource, with different historic resources working together to create an experience with the roadway, Mission Canyon, stegosaurus wall, trough fountain, aqueduct, and trees. The Commission would like to see as little intervention on all of these components as possible.
6. The Commission feels strongly that the existing bridge should be protected and strengthened as much as possible, with as little change as possible using methods such as structure reinforcing and underpinning of the foundation. Earthquakes and/or major storm events could destroy the bridge or it might go into disrepair, but until then it is a valuable resource for the area and part of the cultural landscape.
7. In terms of design methodology, the bridge does not need to be replaced unless absolutely necessary, and the Commission has not seen a strong case that it is yet necessary. The Commission prefers to see the bridge remain as is.
8. The size, bulk, and scale of the bridge is not appropriate to Mission Canyon, especially on Option 3. The Commission should apply the same standards to this bridge as they use in the El Pueblo Viejo Design District. The two-arch bridge is a better option, but the one arch bridge option is not appropriate.

*** MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:07 P.M. ***