

Dear Ms. Murphy,

In today's Santa Cruz Sentinel Classified Ads, I read about the Public Hearing that will be held before the County Historic Resources Commission on January 11 at 9:30am to consider the interpretive panel(s) honoring Robert Merriman. This is a condition of approval for the MidPen Housing development project planned for the site. I have scanned the ad and attached it below.

There is no information about this hearing or the current 2021 meeting calendar on the County's Historic Resources Commission website.

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/SustainabilityPlanning/HistoricResources/HistoricResourcesCommission.aspx>

I am concerned that readers who may want to know more about this critical hearing may not be able to find information about the topic easily and participate if they are interested.

Earlier Commission discussions about this Project included interpretive panels that also addressed the historic ranchette farm that this parcel modelled and likely initiated in the Live Oak Community. The ad in today's newspaper makes no mention of that topic, only describing Robert Merriman's role in fighting fascism in the Spanish Civil War.

Also, I am aware that there are significant serious soil contamination problems at that site and wonder if the Commissioners will be made aware of that issue as they discuss placement of the interpretive panel(s)? The eastern side of the property should certainly be avoided if MidPen takes no clean-up action.

Here is a link to a recent Santa Cruz Sentinel report about that problem:

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2020/12/08/mixed-use-affordable-housing-project-moves-ahead-despite-contamination/>

I hope that full information about this hearing and the text and graphics of what the Commission and public will consider on January 11 are made easily available on the website as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner