



County of Santa Cruz

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HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

9:30 A.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Location of Meeting: 701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor, Planning, LRG Conf. Room

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Newhouse calls the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Commissioners Absent/Excused: NA

Commissioners Present: Lynda Phillips (District 5), Lucia Orlando (Dist. 3), Kevin Newhouse (Dist. 2), Barry Pearlman (Dist. 4), Jim Evans (Dist. 1 – Jim replaced Emily Burton. This was Jim's first HRC meeting)

Staff present: Mark Connolly (Policy Section Supervisor) Matthew Sundt (Staff liaison)

Guest: Becky Steinbruner

2. APPROVE AGENDA APPROVAL OR MODIFICATION

MOTION TO AMEND: Commissioner Phillips requested that Item 9B (Mills Act update) be moved to New Business as Item 8E.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Commissioner Pearlman

SECOND: Commissioner Orlando

AYES: Orlando, Phillips, Pearlman, and Evans

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the regular meeting of June 9, 2025, as amended to include reference under Item 9D (Old Business) that Becky Steinbruner did comment on the Redman – Hirahara House.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Commissioner Orlando

SECOND: Commissioner Phillips

AYES: Orlando, Phillips, Pearlman. Evans abstained because he was not on the Commission In June

4. DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

(Commissioner disclosure of oral and written communications and site visits related to applications appearing on this agenda): None to report.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Members of the public may speak on items **not** on this

agenda and not to exceed three minutes): Becky Steinbruner presents on Bayview, Redman – Hirahara House, and Blue Plaque

6. CONSENT ITEMS
No consent items
7. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS
No public hearing items
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Staff presented on the Demolition by Neglect Ordinance and conveyed that another workshop on the subject will be forthcoming.
 - B. Staff presents on delisting of Alba School, Sea Breeze Tavern, and Discoveryland Preschool.
MOTION TO APPROVE: Commissioner Pearlman
SECOND: Commissioner Orlando
AYES: Orlando, Evans, Phillips, Pearlman. Evans only abstained
 - C. Brief discussion on the Historic Context Statement update prepared by Dudek
 - D. 2026 HRC meeting schedule. It was decided that three meetings in a year would be appropriate for 2026 with options for special meetings: **February, June and September** are selected months and second Mondays are the usual dates.
 - E. Mills Act: staff briefly explains the next steps related to rolling out the Mills Act
9. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Commission reviewed Goals: Commissioner Phillips needs names and addresses for property owners
 - B. Short discussion on the delisting of the Redman – Hirahara House. Property owner makes the next step (most likely to be demolition).
 - C. Website update. Some commissioners are still having problems navigating the County web site relative. Commissioner Orlando offered her written directions to Commissioners that explains how to access information on the web site.
 - D. Inventory updates. Discussion about new photos to replace the bad quality photos associated with the DPR forms.
 - E. Cat and Cloud signage and Hihn Apple Barn graphics displays. County staff to write letter to property owner of Cat and Cloud.
 - F. Staff introduces September 8, 2004 HRC minutes that addresses a fire department using an historical structure for structural burn practice.
10. COMMISSIONER PRESENTATIONS/ INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
 - A. Arano House site visit update by Commission Chair Newhouse.
 - B. Certification of Appreciation explained by Commissioner Phillips - recommends a Certification for the Bennett House.
11. HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION STAFF UPDATE
 - A. Meeting stipends – two Commissioners participate – two signed
12. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - NA
13. REVIEW OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
 - A. *Demolition by Neglect Ordinance* workshop and recommendation of approval
 - B. Historic Context Statement final review and recommendation of approval
14. ADJOURNMENT @ 12:15 pm

*MOTION TO APPROVE: Commissioner Phillips
SECOND: Commissioner Orlando
AYES: Orlando, Evans, Phillips. Pearlman exited early*

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APPEALS

In accordance with Santa Cruz County Code Section 16.42.110, denials or approvals of Historic Preservation Plans by the Historic Resources Commission are appealable to the Board of Supervisors. Pursuant to Santa Cruz County Code Section 18.10.340, appeals to the Board of Supervisors shall be taken by filing a written notice of appeals with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and submitting a copy of the notice along with the required appeal fee to the Planning Department, no later than fourteen calendar days following the date of the hearing from which the action was taken. For more information on appeals, please contact the Planning Department at 831-454-2580