CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by RSRPD Chair Elaine Freeman at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were SVHS President Vicki Spilka, Secretary Alex Walker, Board Member Linda Bosley, and the following RSRPD Staff: Strathearn Historical Park Museum Director Pat Havens, Strathearn Historical Park Specialist Carolyn Valdez, Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka, and Administrative Secretary Barbara Meinel. RSRPD Board Member Kate O'Brien arrived at 5:32 p.m.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING: The minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote.

MODIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IN VISITORS CENTER TO EXTEND TO NEW EXHIBIT AND CASH REGISTER: Historical Society Secretary Walker told the Committee that they are centralizing all forms and records at the park. Cash sales are currently done in the Visitors Center with a cash box, but the Historical Society Board authorized the purchase of a digitized cash register. The cash register will be placed to the side of the counter in the lobby. Park Specialist Valdez asked if an additional electrical line could be installed for the new cash register and other electrical equipment to take some of the load off the current outlets, and Nakaoka responded that the matter would be looked into. Valdez also asked if an electrical line could be run to the “Hands on Exhibit” in the Visitors Center so that children and other visitors to the park can use the old electronic equipment. Nakaoka stated that maintenance would look into this matter also.

REPORT ON SCHOOL TOURS AND EDUCATION OUTREACH BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Linda Bosley gave a slide presentation to the Committee regarding the educational programs at Simi Historical Park and Museum. Ms. Bosley, who recently joined the Historical Society, is a retired U.S. History teacher from the Los Angeles Unified School District, Chair of Education Outreach for the Simi Valley Historical Society, and Manager for the Simi Store at Strathearn Historical Park. She was also previously a volunteer at the Fort Tejon State Historic Park. The presentation, which highlighted different parts of the Historical Society’s education and outreach program, will be presented to the Board at the September 18 Board of Directors meeting.
VI. ISSUE WITH EXPANSION OF THE WALK-THROUGH GATE DUE TO HEAT: Park Specialist Valdez told the Board that a few of the Board members could not get the walk-through gate to open on very hot days as the gate expanded from the heat. Nakaoka responded that he would have the maintenance people look into the matter.

Ms. Valdez also mentioned that the Historical Society is expanding its Inclement Weather Policy to formalize the decision that tours will not be held when the temperature outside reaches 95°.

VII. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST: Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka told the Committee that the Board did approve going forward with the Colony House project, minus the interior improvements, and the contractor began work on the project on September 3.

Museum Director Havens mentioned that the air conditioning is not working well in the Visitors Center, and asked if it is being serviced. Ms. Valdez responded that it is checked and serviced by Stuart Rose, and they are keeping an eye on it.

Ms. Havens asked whether or not the Twilight Tours will be held, and Ms. Bosley responded that they are scheduled to have some tours starting in March of 2020.

Chair Freeman asked if the Ghost Tours will ever be resumed, and Ms. Bosley answered that they might be at some future time, but if resumed, they would be on a smaller scale.

Ms. Valdez mentioned that the City of Simi Valley is holding its 50th Anniversary Barn Dance at the park on September 21. Heritage Halloween and Movie in the Park will be held at Strathearn Park on Saturday, October 19. Last year over 500 children attended the Heritage Halloween event, which included a costume parade, candy handed out by various service and community groups, and a free movie. Día de los Muertos, another very popular and well-attended event, will be held on Sunday, October 27.

VIII. SET TIME AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

IX. ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. by Chair Freeman.

Wayne Nakaoka
Director of Planning & Maintenance