In compliance with the revised Public Meeting laws enacted by the State of California to meet the “Stay Well at Home” social distancing requirements which restrict gatherings to slow the spread of the novel Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting may be attended telephonically. Anyone who wishes to listen, speak, or provide comments telephonically are encouraged to call 877-304-9269, guest pass code 847795, where they will be connected to the meeting. Members of the public may also participate by providing written comments to the Joint Park District/Historical Society Committee by sending an e-mail to Douglas (douglas@rsrpd.us) by Noon on Monday, July 6, 2020.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: At 5:25 p.m., Landscape Designer Douglas Duran accessed the telephonic meeting phone number to enable members of the public to attend the meeting telephonically. No members of the public accessed the meeting telephonically. The meeting was called to order by RSRPD Director Elaine Freeman at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Simi Valley Historical Society President Linda Bosley, Past President Vicki Spilka, Secretary Karen Olson, and the following RSRPD Staff: Board Member Kate O’Brien, Strathearn Historical Park Specialist Carolyn Valdez, Landscape Designer Douglas Duran, and Administrative Secretary Barbara Meinel.

II. PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2020 MEETING: Historical Society Secretary Karen Olson moved to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of the Committee.

IV. STATUS OF REPLACEENT OF THE ADOBE ROOF: Director Freeman stated that the Park District’s Board of Directors had voted to move the Knolls Parking Lot Renovation Project to FY 2021-22 and to add funds in the amount of $75,000 to the FY 2020-21 budget for the Adobe Roof Replacement Project.
Mr. Duran mentioned that Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka had expressed concern as to whether or not a permit will be needed from the state to replace the roof, but Director Freeman stated that it can be approved locally. President Bosley added that she and Park Specialist Valdez have done some research on this subject, and Ms. Bosley has spoken to three different departments at the state level, all of which told her that everything from the state is a recommendation, and there will not be a state permitting process required for the roof replacement. Mr. Duran stated that he had spoken with architect John Loomis, who said the project would just need to go before the local County Cultural Heritage Board. Ms. Bosley then added that since this is a roof replacement, it should just need a "Certificate of Appropriateness" from the County.

The state and the county do require, however, that the roof replacement be period appropriate. It does not need to be replaced with the same materials that were originally used, but it must look the same as the original roof. Mr. Duran said the Ventura County Fire Department does not allow wood shingles, and we may need to use asphalt shingles, although John Loomis told him that there are fire retardant wood shingles. Ms. Bosley told the Committee that she had talked to a contractor who can cut the shingles to look like the original roof.

Mr. Duran stated that he will contact the County, and Ms. Bosley said she will work with Mr. Duran on the application for the Cultural Heritage Board.

Ms. Bosley also mentioned that the "adobe" has probably sustained damage where both structures meet and where the roof leaks. She has a friend who can recommend a company that works on adobe. The outward appearance of the adobe must look original, but modern materials can be used to make any repairs.

Ms. Bosley also asked if the entire roof of both structures is being replaced, and Mr. Duran responded that he thought it was just the rear structure. Replacing the roof of both structures would be more costly than the amount of funds allocated for the project.

Ms. Bosley and Ms. Olson added that many historical parks have had to close due to financial difficulties, and it is important that Strathearn Historical Park be kept in good condition.

V. TREE REPLACEMENTS IN STRATHEARN HISTORICAL PARK: Grounds Maintenance Supervisor John Krieger is working on securing replacement trees. The magnolia tree behind the church that is dying will be replaced with another magnolia. The tree that fell down in front of the Strathearn House will probably be replaced with a sycamore tree, as it will provide more shade. A pepper tree behind the gazebo looks like it might be dying, and Ms. Bosley mentioned that a pump station was added when the Target parking lot was built, and she thinks the pepper tree may not be getting enough water due to water being pumped out. Grounds Supervisor Krieger will be trying some different things to try to improve the health of the pepper tree.
VI. STRATEGIC OPENING SUPPLEMENT PLAN – INDOOR MUSEUM AND EXHIBITS: Due to the rising number of coronavirus cases, museums have been ordered to close again by order of the Governor. The situation will be re-evaluated in three weeks, and the plan for the reopening of the indoor museum and exhibits will be revisited at that time.

VII. CELL PHONE TOURS: Ms. Valdez told the Committee that the park has obtained a free sample of an audio cell phone tour that another museum has been using. This version will allow five tours with 100 stops and if approved, will cost only $14 a month. Ms. Bosley said the Historical Society is expected to approve the monthly cost of the audio tour at its next Board meeting. The tour is not an app; instead it is through a website. Ms. Valdez said she will be revising the tour and will send out a prototype to the docents, volunteers, and Historical Society Committee members to review. A Spanish version of the basic tour can also be provided. A sign can be posted at the front of the park where visitors can scan a URL code with their phone to be taken to the tour’s website. This won’t be a substitute for the docent-led tours, but it will be very helpful if museums must stay closed for a prolonged period of time. It will also enable visitors who don’t want to go on a formal tour to have access to information about the park through their phone.

This tour can do pictures and audio, but not video. The Historical Society is thinking about also connecting to a U-Tube Channel that can be used in conjunction with the phone tour, and it might be possible to have the docents do tours of the interior of the buildings through the U-Tube Channel.

Ms. Olson commented that this version of the audio tour can always be upgraded, and Director Freeman said she thinks it’s a wonderful idea. Director Freeman also mentioned the possibility of having markers at different locations in the park with a URL code that can be scanned. Mr. Duran added that this could open other avenues for the Park District for tours at other locations.

Ms. Bosley said the tour should be up and running within a week to 10 days. An advertisement will be put in the Acorn and on social media when it is fully functional.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST: Historical Society President Bosley mentioned that she had scheduled an appointment with Dan Paranick, the Park District’s General Manager, for Tuesday, July 7, to introduce herself as the new Historical Society President.

Director Freeman asked about the status of wedding cancellations due to the Pandemic. Ms. Valdez responded that most parties have canceled or postponed their event. She does have one small ceremony scheduled for July 31, and another one for August 21. Ms. Valdez said that some parties who had to cancel their event at Strathearn could not even rebook for next year due to economic hardships caused by the Pandemic.

Ms. Valdez added that the people who have had to cancel their event at Strathearn Historical Park are very grateful for the Park District’s policy regarding cancellations.
IX. SET TIME AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Activity Center.

X. ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned by Director Freeman at 6:08 p.m.

[Signature]
Douglas Duran, Landscape Designer