

**Minutes of the November 19, 2015 Meeting of the
Modernism Committee
State Historical Resources Commission
1725 23rd Street, Ste 100, Conference Room 2, Sacramento, CA**

- I. Committee members in attendance Committee Chair Beth Edwards Harris, Gretchen Steinberg, Alan Hess, William Kopelk, Jay Correia, OHP Staff. Additional attendees Helen Stickler, Ken Lyons, Joseph Haney, Terri Stone.
- II. Call to Order 10:12 AM PST.
- III. Approval of minutes: Ken motioned, William seconded. No oppose. Approved.
- IV. Integrity Working Group Update
 - a. Alan reflected on the presentations this year and posed the question as to whether there is a problem with the NR Criterion or whether we asking the right questions when it comes to saving significant Modern Resources.
 - b. Is the problem only integrity: ie. whether or not to accept replacement materials in kind or otherwise? Are we placing too much dependence on Criterion C and the narrative of aesthetics/ master architect/ best example of the architects' work etc.
 - c. Should we look at Criterion A, that the social / cultural/ historical narrative allows for change in materials and helps to navigate the issue of shifting periods of significance over the life of the building or place.
 - d. What about sustainability as an ally? Might we think about asking for historic sustainability efforts, both material and financial, to be valued in the Criterion? (Under A or C) If a building is important, defining what is important about it other than its materiality, but recognizing historic upgrades. The same when evaluating it in the tax credit process. Can a building that is upgraded for sustainability reasons (both financial and environmental) still qualify?
 - e. Can the current NR form be used in a way such that there is no reason to change it substantively?
 - f. With the Getty's work on iconic Modern buildings and their emphasis on material conservation, how do we address less iconic, but important Modern buildings? Communities cannot afford to preserve buildings to the conservation standard set by the Getty. More Modern buildings need to be re-purposed and hence changed to begin to compete with real estate/land values.
 - g. Work by Vince Michael, Max Page, Alison Jefferson and others point to the need to address broader constituencies when thinking about preserving twentieth- century buildings and places. Example Baldwin Park tract development and the effort to take the gardens back to the 1947 condition when residents from the 60's feel the changes made in their era are equally as significant. Criterion C privileges the architect's intention over the changes made over time by the users? Can a broader look

actually help us preserve more Modern resources and strengthen the value of the resource to more people in the communities where they exist?

- h. In thinking about future conferences, we would like to hear more case studies on Modern preservation that grappled with material integrity questions or worked with SHPO's seeking tax credits etc. It might be good to also bring in DOCOMOMO's perspective and an academic perspective. These are groups in the forefront of Modern preservation but working with different strategies and struggling with similar problems. Are they using the NR in their process? If not what are they using to evaluate resources and are their processes more effective? The NR application can be a great resource to define significance and character defining features etc. and as such it is a great tool for architects when researching how to preserve or reuse a building.
- i. Alan commented that, speaking as an architect, architects aren't really interested in history and universities don't teach history as a rule to architectural students. He reported that UC Berkeley is considering having a course in historic preservation. Beth would like to see architectural schools brought into the discussion. She asked Alan to speak with Margaret Crawford about possibly being on the panel discussion.
- j. Beth reported that Alison Jefferson suggested Dell Upton from UCLA to discuss a broader view of preservation. Max Page might talk on this point as well and he is speaking at MW and has written about it in his book "Giving Preservation a History." Beth reported that Alison Jefferson is available to discuss the Baldwin Hills project. Beth suggested that Adrian or Alan present a case study to bring in more of the California perspective. Adrian might also bring a SoCal Docomomo perspective. William Menking from Architect's Newspaper is attending MW so we might ask him for another NY case study. Beth asked the Committee to consider inviting Marie Sorenson, the head of New England Docomomo. She will also ask Mark Davis if anyone else from other states are attending that might present case studies.
- k. Beth asked Gretchen whether her Capital Towers project would be of interest to the panel. Gretchen felt it wasn't appropriate in terms of discussing integrity.
- l. Jay spoke about Criterion A in relation to suitability for preserving Modern buildings vs. just using Criterion C. He noted interpreting the Criterion has changed over the decades giving the example of windows and roofing. Window changes and changes in roofing materials will not automatically prevent listing, as may have been the case in the past. Jay cited a recent nomination heard by the SHRC that was voted down under California Register Criterion 3 (the UCLA Faculty Center) that might have passed under Criterion 1. Both Alan and Beth agreed that the UCLA nomination would be a great case study.

Action Items:

- Alan to speak with Margaret Crawford re participation on panel
- Beth to set up meeting with Alan and Adrian after Thanksgiving
- Beth and William to think of ideas for the name of the panel
- Beth, Alan and Adriane to outline the focus of the panel and pick speakers including possibly Alison Jefferson, Max Page, Margaret Crawford, Susan Secoy Jensen, Adrian fine, Pete Moruzzi.
- Beth asked Terri to reach out to Cindy Heitzman at CPF to include the OHP panel again in 2016

V. Outreach Update

Gretchen reported that this last year had been about identifying our target individuals and groups and working on a unified process for contacting them. She reported that the efforts to create a database is as follows

- a. Last year, we gathered up names and contact information for various people and organizations who might be interested in joining a statewide effort to increase connectivity.
- b. Terri took that list and input the data into Excel format. This was completed in July. The data includes:
 - Affiliation/Organization
 - Name
 - Email address
 - Phone Number
 - Address
 - Website (if any)It's clear from looking at the spreadsheets that there are deficits for some key data (in particular names of contact persons within organizations). Also, collecting a database is no small task and will take a lot of effort to ensure that it is updated and maintained.
- c. Gretchen reported that our initial outreach should be done with an introductory letter. A letter was drafted and approved by OHP in February. OHP agreed to send it out once they receive the Excel data. Though we don't have all data for all target groups and individuals, the letter acts as a starting point and hopefully as a catalyst for additions to the database.
- d. Gretchen reported Diane's posting on OHP Website's Modernism page: http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23486 to include SRCH ModCom Mission statement (which also includes intent for outreach) needs to be posted
Diane already posted about the database on our website. Gretchen stressed these key elements: The need to develop and include a "get involved" section, the need to develop and include a fillable online form;

Action items:

- Gretchen will send PDF of Excel spreadsheet to Beth for dissemination
- Gretchen will meet with Diane to get outreach letter out

- William and Gretchen will create a fill-out form available at Modernism Week in the headquarters building, as well as on the seats at the panel discussion.
- William to get logistics for MW for including an OUTREACH request at key lectures and work with Beth.

V. New Business

- a. William reported that MW has developed a check list for a number of properties to be placed on the NR. It will fund-raise money by conducting tours of homes and use the dollars to fund a consultant to assist with the NR application for the homes on tour. The first application is for the Walter S. White house. The owner approves. Peter Moruzzi is starting the multiple property application for the E. Stewart Williams buildings sponsored by the Modernism Committee. All this activity seems to have had an impact on the new city council people who still have little education about preservation and its community wide benefits. They now seem more interested in the process.
- b. Alan reported that the Friendly Hills Bowling Alley by Powers, Daly and DeRosa, has been approved for adaptive re-use by the City of Whittier. Additionally, the original Taco Bell is slated to be moved (this evening) to a new site at the Taco Bell headquarters in Irvine.

VI. Next meeting scheduled for December 12/16 10-11:30 PST

VI. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM PST.