
From: Otto Radtke <otto.radtke@googlemail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 7:34 PM
To: DV - Cultural Heritage
Subject: App #HLM 2305-02

-EXTERNAL-

Regarding the Historic Landmark Designation for 4004 Country Club Drive:

No homeowner should be encumbered by a historical designation without their will and consent. Should the application be made without the homeowner's consent, please deny the application.

Warm Regards,

Otto Radtke
3835 Country Club Drive



Bluff Park Neighborhood Association

May 29, 2023

Kathleen Irvine, Chair
Cultural Heritage Commission
City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802

RE: Agenda Item 23-017CH – Recommendation to Forward to the City Council 26 Mills Act Contracts and 2 Historic Landmark Nominations, Including 4 Properties in the Bluff Park Historic District

Dear Honorable Chair Irvine, Vice Chair McGuan, and Commissioners Bodek, Grisafe, Hunter, and Ramos:

Coming before you at this week's meeting of the City of Long Beach Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) is a recommendation that the CHC recommend to the Long Beach City Council the conferment of Mills Act contracts citywide for 26 properties, four of which are in the Bluff Park Historic District, with the additional nominations for Historic Landmark designation for 2 of those properties, one of which is in the Bluff Park Historic District.

The **Bluff Park Neighborhood Association** (BPNA) board supports the recommendation and expresses immense gratitude for the time and effort that Long Beach Development Services (LBDS) Planning Bureau staff and leadership put into the many months' long process of education, meetings, outreach, site visits, research, review, collaboration, and deliberations that underlie the comprehensive Staff Report so eloquently presented.

Additionally, the BPNA board appreciates the scores of property owners who considered applying for Mills Act contracts. The fact that the City received 43 completed applications this year represents a tremendous need and desire for historic preservation. We are thrilled that of those, 26 have successfully reached this milestone in coming before you for this recommendation. Within our own neighborhood, we are proud of all 7 applicants.

Specific to our neighborhood, this item includes a recommendation to designate with Historic Landmark status (meeting two of the four Municipal Code criteria) and award a Mills Act contract under the special exemption category for exceptional architecture to 3305 E. 1st Street, as well as recommendations to award Mills Act contracts to the contributing properties at 2621 E. 1st Street, 3333 E. 2nd Street, and 32 Kennebec Avenue.

The workplans that all the contracts will need to execute will go far in enhancing and safeguarding not just their own individual historic properties, but also the neighborhood and the city overall for generations to come.

With great thanks to the State of California and to the City of Long Beach for enacting, resourcing, and executing the Mills Act Program, offering tax-abatement savings in exchange for such workplan contracts demonstrates the value that our government and the public place on protecting and preserving historic structures and neighborhoods that draw people to live in, work in, and visit our vibrant city.

The Planning Staff Report also highlights and acts upon the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) Chapter 2.63 allowing the CHC to recommend coveted Historic Landmark Designation status to 2 more structures based on the four criteria. The architect of 3305 E. 1st Street was Miner Smith, and the architect of 4004 Country Club

Drive was Edward Killingsworth. Both homes were originally owned and occupied by people of significance to Long Beach in contributing to the history of aviation and midcentury modern furniture design, respectively.

We are thrilled to see the expansion of more and more properties in the city achieving Historic Landmark designation, as the CHC did elsewhere earlier this year. The stories contained in this month's Planning Staff Report contribute beautifully to the written record of the history, places, people, and events key to our city's rich and worthy heritage.

Finally, with an eye towards diversity, equity and inclusion, we observe that there were no Mills Act applicants this year from neighborhoods in the northern and northeastern portions of Long Beach within the 4th, 8th, and 9th City Council Districts and wonder if such absence is reflective of the actual distribution of historic assets in the city and/or if such absence might indicate, at least in part, the need for further study and enhanced education and outreach to those and other areas in future Mills Act Program cycles.

Marking more than 50 years, the BPNA's board of directors represents the collective voice of those who live, own, and rent in the Bluff Park Historic District, which was established as the 2nd historic district in the Long Beach by the City Council over 40 years ago and which is generally bounded by E. Ocean Boulevard to E. Broadway and by Junipero Avenue to Loma Avenue.

The BPNA is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable entity with a mission of historic preservation and cohesion. The association serves to foster a sense of unity, collaboration, community service, and goodwill for all of the city; to protect, preserve, safeguard, and beautify the Bluff Park Historic District; and to support its neighborhood residents, visitors, and environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and for the impacting work you do month after month!

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Mallin

BPNA Vice President of Historic Preservation

cc via email: Cindy Allen, Vice Mayor and 2nd District Councilwoman, City of Long Beach
Christopher Koontz, Director, City of Long Beach Development Services
Alison Spindler-Ruiz, Manager, Planning Bureau, City of Long Beach Development Services
Alejandro Plascencia, Historic Preservation Planner, Planning Bureau, City of Long Beach Development Services
Gina Casillas, Planner, Planning Bureau, City of Long Beach Development Services
Chris Hogan, President, Long Beach Heritage
Manuel Valenzuela, Acting Executive Director, Long Beach Heritage
Michelle Arend-Ekhoff, Lead, Long Beach Historic Districts' Leaders Group