



## ***News from the Helotes Heritage Association***

Dear Readers,

Following are the minutes from the Grey Forest Historical Society meeting held February 2, 2008.

Sincerely,  
Ron Green, President  
Helotes Heritage Association

### **Grey Forest Historical Society February 2, 2008 1 PM Scenic Loop Playground Club**

Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Freda Hoffman, Chairperson. In attendance were: Sarah Neimann, Jim and Kathleen McCloskey, Debbie Swisher, Irene Scharf, Elaine Daniel, George Blucker, Thomas Crick, Mary Fenstermaker, Susan Beavin, and David Bentley. Handouts with the agenda, mission statement and history of the Grey Forest Historical Society, and inscription of the Scenic Loop Playground historical marker were passed out.

Review Mission Statement for New Members: Freda reviewed the GFHS's Mission Statement and gave the background of the Society's formation. She also gave information on the SLP historical marker and the process of obtaining one. A large map, taken from E. N. Requa's original 1935 brochure of the Scenic Loop Playground, was placed on the wall for all to see.

#### Status of Projects:

1. National Registry – David Bentley is working on the narrative draft. Terry McWilliams has completed the data base, inputting 209 Grey Forest houses, transferring pertinent information from completed inventory forms. David had taken pictures of each home, but there is a problem merging the pictures and information database. Freda is talking to Debbie Swisher about this dilemma. Irene Scharf offered to talk to several people at Palo Alto College to see if they could offer assistance. Freda did have an email from Terry that appears to have the information necessary to send in with the draft for initial review. David will check to see if he has that same information. There remain several sites in the area that need documentation.
2. Helotes Historical Society – this group recently met last Tuesday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> at the Old Towne Bistro in Old Town Helotes. Freda, the keynote speaker, talked about the Grey Forest Historical Society, its formation, the SLP historical marker and progress of the national designation for Grey Forest. She also had additional information, such as the Guggen letter, she presented to the HHS for their files. The HHS gave the status of their group – revitalization of their organization, due of \$10.00 per member/\$15.00 per couple, donation of a location for their future museum, future speakers, etc.
3. Historical Tree Designation – after considerable research, Freda gave all tree information to Laurie Hawkins, Grey Forest's arborist. Laurie will be taking care of this.
4. The History & Deed Record of Grey Forest Homes – Freda continues to gather information of previous homeowners and deed records for each home, collected in a notebook. This will be an

ongoing project.

#### Future Projects:

1. Speakers – There are numerous historical groups in the region who could speak to GFHS, lending valuable information to our group.

2. Oral histories for archives/Fire-side Chats – Linda Darst is working on this. Last year the group felt it would be wonderful to have long-time residents speak, sharing their history in the community. This would also become part of our oral history records project. Irene stated she knows someone (Summerlee (sp)) who might be able to help. She also knows two people at Palo Alto College who do oral histories, as well as small town histories. They could also speak to the group about this topic.

#### Applying for the 501C3:

Everyone felt it is necessary to file for this non-profit status as soon as possible. We will need to obtain a copy of the paperwork, possibly that of Government Canyon, and do most of the work ourselves. Irene will look into the Govt. Canyon ones. We will probably need help from a CPA or the like. We will also need by-laws which includes a slate of officers. Susan Beavin will research this. Until we have this designation, GEAA (Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance) has agreed to let us file for grants under their umbrella.

#### Grants:

There are two grants available now – a community gardening grant, which would be perfect for the SLPC area, but we need to see if it is only available in the city of San Antonio; and a history grant, available to groups such as GFHS to work in partnership with one or more local schools to promote and preserve the history of the area. The latter is part of our mission statement.

#### Setting Regular Meetings:

It was agreed that quarterly meetings will be set for the GFHS. Committees can meet monthly, when necessary. April meeting TBA.

#### Website and Newsletter:

It was agreed to communicate via email for now, and hopefully we will have a more formal newsletter and website when funds dictate.

#### The Maverick Ranch:

Mary Fenstermaker gave handouts of the recent press release concerning the threat by eminent domain to erect a dam on their property, near the headwaters of the Leon Creek, which would flood a majority of the Maverick Ranch – Fromme Farm. The press release gave the history of their property and stated that they are on the National Registry of Historic Places, due to their historic buildings, cemetery and numerous archaeological sites.

#### Priorities:

Priorities will be David's submission to the National Registry, 501C3 designation and by-laws.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

(Minutes taken and submitted by Susan Beavin)