

From: [Eric Fraser](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [Meads, Shari](#); M.Ringhoff@arg-la.com; history@sonomalibrary.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/23 Agenda Item 12.3 PSA w/Architectural Resources
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Hello Mayor and City Council;

Folks affiliated with the Greater Cherry Street Neighborhood Association are excited about the upcoming Historical Resource Evaluation for the Downtown Station Area. It is not clear whether this is a study with an intent to favor development over preservation, so we'll look forward to understanding the evaluation criteria.

Although future research about the Historic Neighborhoods apparently is not within the scope of the evaluation because that work has already been "completed", it might be valuable to have thorough outreach to the historic neighborhoods to see if there were any shortcomings in the prior historic surveys, if new information or sources have materialized, and to learn from local scholars and enthusiasts about historic buildings and artifacts.

I also did not see any budget for researchers from the local Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library or Museum of Sonoma County included in the proposal. Why is that? It seems like lots of this work has already been completed.

As informative as the Library and Museum can be, there are still a lot of gaps. It is not uncommon for a deed and County records to list one date for a structure, when research shows it to be much older, as shown on early plat maps, etc. The City apparently also lost or misplaced records, so plenty of time would need to be spent to do a thorough job. For instance, when records were needed to understand art, buildings, and trees to prepare for the Old Courthouse Square Reunification much was missing. Here again, coordinating with the Library and other existing resources (including churches) would be essential.

Looking forward to being of service,

Eric Fraser
Ombuds
Greater Cherry Street Neighborhood Association
707.479-8247