

From: Mendocino Historical Review Board

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

October XX, 2020

On May 8, 2018, our Board sent a communication to your Board regarding the eminent crisis and difficulty regarding filling seats and meeting mandated permit timelines on the Mendocino Historic Review Board (MHRB).

The difficulty of filling seats on the MHRB remains, and is approaching crisis level again. In March 2020, our prior Chair was termed out, leaving three filled seats for 6 months. This past meeting, we welcomed a new Board member, Alan Saunders. However, Deidre Lamb will be termed out at the end of the calendar year, leaving MHRB with three seated members. We currently have one vacancy on the five-member Board. In January 2021, this will bring the filled seats down to three members. This is a difficult position, which we believe you all, can understand. Legally, this becomes a significant liability when we review the requirements to process applications in a mandated time frame, or face automatic approval of applications that do not meet timely required obligations.

In this letter, we are requesting that your Board take the following actions to expand the pool of qualified MHRB applicants, and thus attempt to bring this Board to full membership:

- Expertise – Historic preservation, museum curator experience, studies in Northern California coastal life; these are all examples of areas of expertise relevant to expertise to the MHRB. We are recommending the expansion of seats to allow for a Mendocino County resident to have “Expertise” as a qualification for appointment. As such, it is recommended to open eligibility to no more than one seat on the MHRB to this category.
- Experience – Similar to the above point, we are requesting the opportunity to utilize the experience of prior Board members, on an as needed basis. This would be implemented when the staff to the Board has direct knowledge that there will not be a quorum for the upcoming MHRB meeting. Staff, or Board members, could reach out to a “retired/termed out” MHRB Board member to be a current and acting MHRB Board member for a single meeting to meet the legally mandated time requirements and render decisions on current Board items.
- Property Owners/Business Owners – Understanding that these individuals may, or may not reside in the MHRB district, they do have a direct interest in maintaining the historic preservation of the district for the advancement and value of their properties and businesses. As such, it is recommended to open

eligibility to no more than two seats on the MHRB to both property and business owners.

- Point of View Estates – The current zoning code does not include residents of this community to be eligible for seats on the MHRB. We recommend that because of the proximity to the district, that residents of the Point of View Estates are directly affected by decisions of the MHRB, and thus be included in the pool of applicants to the MHRB, with no more than one seat on the MHRB.
- Term Limits – We are proposing that terms be changed from three years to four years, and that there should not be any limitation to the number of terms any Board member serve. If there is a Board member that is no longer fit to serve, the 5th District Supervisor has the option to not reappoint. Expertise, experience, and knowledge are all irreplaceable.

In closing, we are defined as a board of five members, dedicated to the historic preservation of Mendocino. Our current configuration of four members, will drop to three members in January 2021. We are again, seeking action from your Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County, to broaden the pool of applicants to the Mendocino Historic Review Board, to ensure the mandated timely review of applications.

The existing MHRB members are signatories to this request. We will be present for the presentation of this communication at your Board meeting, and will be looking forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter with your Board.

Respectfully,

Chair Lamb

Vice-Chair Roth

Member Kappler

Member Saunders