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By Jocelyn Gonzalez -Thies at 8:16 am, Apr 05, 2024

From: icsimonich@yahoo.com
To: [pbs](#)
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I am writing to voice my concern about the changes planned for the Mendocino Historical Review Board. I am in disagreement with the following:

Change in meeting time and location.

The MHRB meetings are for the benefit of the citizens of Mendocino Village. Meetings should continue to be held in Mendocino to make it easy for village residents to attend. The 7 PM meeting time makes it easier for people who work to attend the meetings. Moving the meeting to Fort Bragg only helps the staff. A once-a-month meeting in Mendocino is not too much to ask from staff.

Change the Bylaws

Mendocino is a historic village and to keep it historic, buildings must be maintained to a historic standard. Modern building materials and practices should not be used. The phrase suggested by the county, "while balancing the historical style of architecture with modern building practices and supporting the local community with sensible regulation." is too ambiguous and open to interpretation which would be different depending on who was serving on the MHRB.

Eliminating site visits

As a former MHRB member, I appreciated the ability to ask questions of the applicant and hear other members questions during the site visits. It is much more efficient to meet together because many common questions would not have to be repeated. It would be a huge burden for the applicants to meet individually with each MHRB member. Also, if there is a set time, members of the public are also often present. This too would be eliminated if a common site visit was eliminated.

Eliminating meeting minutes

Official meeting minutes are essential to any government meeting. They provide a record of the actions taken during the meeting. Having a recording is not enough.

Board members submit policy or guidance documents

MHRB members are not trained to understand county policies. That is the job of professional county employees. Staff have the resources to ask and receive answers from other county staff members. MHRB members do not have any authority to seek help from staff. They are not in the organizational chart. Staff know who handles what and who to ask the right questions.

John Simonich