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By James Feenan at 1:37 pm, Apr 08, 2024

April 7, 2024

Subject: MHRB April 8th meeting regarding streamlining Memo

Dear Director Julia Krog and members of the Mendocino Historic Review Board,

It is my understanding that these proposed changes are to streamline the Mendocino Historic Review Board meetings and processes in order to cut operating costs. I would agree to some of these changes in order to do so, in lieu of eliminating the board all together, but I question the amount that would be saved by “Bylaw Amendment #1” , Article 11 – Duties Section 1. The proposed change to the bylaws would result in relaxing the code of standards. People come to Mendocino because of it’s historic charm. If these bylaws are changed and replaced with language with room for loopholes and individual interpretation, this could have dire consequences for the town and its standards that must be upheld in order to remain on the National Register of Historic Places. We should feel honored, grateful , and protective of the status that Mendocino holds on this register. This took a lot of time and energy form past review board members to establish. With this standing, Mendocino proves to be a gem of the county, that draws visitors from near and far, because of the unique and sustained character of the town. It is because of this standing that we have been able to protect Mendocino’s natural beauty and it is because of this standing that Mendocino is able to generate substantial income for the county due to tourism.

Another concern for me is eliminating written minutes. These minutes, when recorded in writing, are much easier to navigate than an audio recording. Minutes are essential to any governing body and hold much past and present knowledge and insights.

In closing, I urge MHRB to reject this change to the bylaws and reconsider continuing to provide written minutes.

Thank you,

Winnie Pitrone
45260 Albion Street
Mendocino, Ca 95460