

DATE: December 4, 2017

Re: Agenda item II / December 4, 2017 Arcata City Council Special Study Session

RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT AND FACILITATE DISCUSSION ON THE PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY STATUE AND THE PLAQUE DESIGNATING THE JACOBY BUILDING AS CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 783

Since 1947, the Humboldt County Historical Society (HCHS) has worked to preserve original historical materials related to Northern California history. A privately funded non-profit organization, HCHS enjoys membership by thousands individuals and families. Our purpose is to further an understanding and appreciation of all peoples, places, events, and activities of Humboldt County and related areas. Toward this end, we focus on acquiring, preserving, interpreting, creating, and sharing historical information, and by educating and assisting others to do the same.

The topic of the McKinley statue and Plaza was discussed by the Society's Board of Directors during our most recent meeting held on November 15, 2017. Following which, the Board voted to compile a list of resources on these topics and provide these for the Council and public to review and consider.

Attached you will find a Bibliography recently compiled by Morgan Harvey, research assistant for the Society. An assortment of additional information is also included. Selected by a number of our Board members, this additional information may help to understand some of the broader historical context of the statue and Plaza history, as well as local attitude's and appreciation of President McKinley during the period leading up to installation and dedication of the statue in 1906.

We hope this information spurs both the Council and the public to conduct deeper research into all of the local and national history which surrounds this matter. Subjects include: early conflict between white settlers and local indigenous tribes, George Zehndner - the statue's sponsor, and the 50+ years of plaza/Union history preceding the statues appearance. Lastly, we'd like to note and express gratitude for Susie van Kirk, the pre-eminent local historian who tirelessly chronicled Arcata's history for decades, and published authoritative texts on the subject during her lifetime. Much of our collective understanding of the Plaza and History of Union is due to her.

We encourage interested parties to visit or contact HCHS or other local historical institutions (HSU Humboldt Room, Historical Sites Society of Arcata, etc.) if wishing to conduct further research or learn more about this subject.

Sincerely,

Steven Lazar, Director, Humboldt County Historical Society

attachment 1: *Bibliography prepared by Morgan Harvey, HCHS Research Assistant*

attachment 2: *George Zehndner - misc. Biographical information*

attachment 3: *articles from Humboldt Historian re: statue, plaza*

attachment 4: *photos of local McKinley Memorials & early references to McKinleyville*

attachment 5: *articles from 1954 and 1958 Arcata Union*

attachment 6: *Susie van Kirk – Plaza History - from Reflections of Arcata's History – Eighty Years of Architecture*

attachment 7: *Susie van Kirk – regarding Charley Richards' goat*

attachment 8: *excerpt from military records; War of the Rebellion; Chapter LXII: Operations on the Pacific Coast pt. 1 – Reports, correspondence, etc.*