

Legion Hall Restoration Update #7

The conceptual design for seismic retrofit of Crockett's Memorial Hall (Legion Hall) was presented to the District Board of the Crockett Community Services District on December 22. The presentation by structural engineer Ben Au from San Francisco firm Holmes Culley was very well received. Under the approach recommended, the brick walls will be strengthened with very minimal visual impacts on the building. As this will meet our primary objective of protecting the historic landmark architecturally as well as structurally, the Board directed Mr. Au to proceed with the schematic design phase of our project. We hope to have the engineer's drawings on exhibit at our open house on May 21 after the 'Bridge Walk of Honor'. Be sure to mark that day on your calendars!

Changes to the Memorial Hall grounds have now begun. The big sycamore on the corner has been pruned for safety, thanks to a grant from the Crockett Community Foundation. The Crockett Improvement Association has donated all the bricks we will need to outline some initial planting areas for flowers and shrubs. And mulch has been donated by Hamilton Tree Service of Concord.

Our first volunteer workparty was a success in starting to make the grounds look attractive. Four small willow trees were removed along Pomona because they were failing. These had been planted by neighbors Larry Bell and Larry Schwafel, who both agreed that the trees had been a disappointment and should be removed. Two oak trees will be planted soon as an initial measure to 'reforest' the property.

Also at the first workparty, we made a start on rototilling planting areas along the sidewalks, two valves were installed for basic irrigation purposes, and other small trees were pruned. Our volunteer heroes of the day included Fred Clerici, Sean Skeen, D'arcy Trask, Don Barton, Eric Quinn, Howard Adams and Mike Kirker. Everyone's volunteer hours are greatly appreciated and help us to meet the sweat equity requirement of our Foundation grant.

With such good weather this week, a second workparty is scheduled for this Saturday (1/22) from 9 AM to noon. The following work is planned if we have enough people to do it:

1. Finish rototilling a shallow depth in designated planting areas along the sidewalks.
2. Dig out 4 small tree stumps.
3. Begin laying bricks to form simple borders around the new planting areas.
4. Spread mulch over the planting areas.
5. Clean up the grounds.

With the help of local volunteers, we'll soon have a colorful show of spring flowers to brighten the neighborhood. Then when we hold our open house on May 21, Crockett's Memorial Hall can be seen not as a derelict property but as a promising work-in-progress!

Please help this Saturday if you can.

Kent Peterson

Crockett CSD
January 2011

Those of you receiving this update on Crockett's Memorial Hall for the first time are invited to read the previous project updates on our website: www.town.crockett.ca.us