



April 26, 2017

Ian Johnson
Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Oregon SHPO
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Buena Vista Club Review and Concurrence- Supplemental Information

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The city is exploring the long term viability of the Buena Vista Social Clubhouse as a city facility. Since 1987, it has been used as a rental facility for events and parks programs. It is currently not on the National Register or locally designated but is over 50 years. No project is being proposed at this time. However, if a rehabilitation and programming plan is not financially feasible, the city may opt for demolition of the structure.

In anticipation, Oregon City submitted a ORS 358.653 clearance form requesting concurrence from SHPO on the potential eligibility of the structure for listing on National Register in spring of 2016, the first step in the ORS 35.653 process. Based on the integrity of the building, staff identified that it was potentially eligible. Along with the physical survey form, staff provided a small amount of information from a 1987 City Commission report and minutes relating to the city's acquisition of the building from the remaining club owners in the initial submittal.

In spring of 2016, Jason Allen, Historic Preservation Specialist with the Oregon State Historic Preservation office, indicated over email that additional information was needed on the context and history of the club as that was most likely the criterion the building would be eligible for, namely **Criterion A**; *That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history*. This information was passed on the Scott Archer, former Community Services Director for next steps.

As Community Services is again looking at the next steps for the Buena Vista Club building, the eligibility of the building needs to be resolved in order to move to the next steps of the ORS 358.653 process. In lieu of performing an Intensive level survey (ILS) at the beginning of this process, potentially holding up stakeholder outreach and alternatives analysis review, the city worked with the neighbors to provide additional research for Criterion A to support its eligibility for listing, which I have enclosed as an exhibit to this letter. This is hoped to be supplemented by a formal ILS by a paid consultant as part of any mitigation or rehabilitation program when funds can be made available in the next budget cycle.

The following information was requested by the State Historic Preservation Office:

- How and why was the Buena Vista Club created?
- Who belonged? Were they well known citizens of the community?
- How did the club contribute to the development of the city, the neighborhood?
- What activities happened at the club, were they political, social, leisure?
- How did this club connect the larger themes of Oregon City's context statement?

With this supplemental information, Oregon City is requesting a formal determination from SHPO of the Buena Vista Club's potential eligibility for listing on the National Register. This finding will allow the city to begin to discuss the options for the building through the lens of the ORS 358.653 as it creates a clear and transparent process.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Christina Robertson-Gardiner
Senior Planner

cc.

Phil Lewis, Community Services Director
Tony Konkol, City Manager
Laura Terway, Community Development Director
Denyse McGriff, McLoughlin Neighborhood Association
Todd Iselin

Exhibits:

- A. April 2017- Supplemental Information