



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8/31/2016
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center
700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Vice Chair London called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: DeCardy, Dickerson, Vice Chair London, Marshall, Smolke
Absent: Bedwell, Martin
Staff: Sustainability Manager Heather Abrams, Senior Sustainability Specialist Vanessa Marcadejas

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment

D. Regular Business

D1. Make a determination on an appeal for one heritage Redwood tree at 1080 San Mateo Drive ([Attachment](#)) – 1hr

Applicant, Lynn Segal, provided the Commission with his reasons for requesting the tree removal. The tree has caused damage to the foundation of his home and possibly his neighbor's property.

City Arborist, Christian Bonner, provided the Commission with a brief overview of his evaluation of the heritage tree and his reasoning for tentatively approving the removal permit.

Appellant, Horace Nash, provided a presentation on his reasons for appealing the proposed removal of the tree. He suggests that alternatives be used to preserve the tree, such as root pruning.

Appellant Betsy Nash, provided a presentation on her reasons for appealing the proposed removal of the tree. The tree looks like it is thriving and that it has weathered the drought.

Co-appellant, Sally Cole, provided a presentation on her reasons for appealing the proposed removal of the tree. Ms. Cole suggested that future heritage tree evaluations consider the full benefits of the tree as a part of the neighborhood canopy, as opposed to stating its negative impacts to surrounding properties.

Public Comment

- Uzi Bar-Godda stated that he opposes the removal of the heritage tree.
- Judy Horst stated that she opposes the removal of the heritage tree.

- Reynaldo Quintana, neighbor of Mr. Segal, stated that he supports the removal of the heritage tree.
- Ralph Osterling, professional forester and applicant's arborist, stated that he supports the removal of the heritage tree.

ACTION: Motion and second (DeCardy/Marshall) to deny the appeal based on the Heritage Tree criteria as stated in the arborist report, passes (3-2-2) (Yayes: DeCardy, London, Marshall; Noes: Dickerson, Smolke; Absent/Abstain: Bedwell, Martin)

Commissioner Smolke left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

- D2. Consider a recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council on a request to remove 39 heritage trees on property located at 350 Sharon Park Drive ([Attachment](#)) – 1 hour – Kaitlin Meador, Associate Planner

Project applicant and Director of Capital Projects at Maximum Real Estate Partners, Dave Ruth and Associate Planner, Kaitlin Meador provided the Commission with an overview of the proposed project.

Public Comment

- Aruni Nanayakkara, resident of Sharon Oaks, stated that she previously provided comments on the proposed project three years ago and appreciated that the developer is making an effort to save as many trees as they can. Ms. Nanayakkara also asked why the replacement ratio for the project is 1:1 as opposed to 1:2 and if the City keep track of the replacement trees.
- Judy Horst stated that she would like to see the maintenance records on the existing trees, if available. She also recommended that the trees be considered for cabling and that they receive a level 2 or 3 arborist inspection.
- Siegfried Schoen, resident across the street, stated that he enjoys the beauty of the trees. He asked that the EQC revisit all individual trees and consider looking at the project's refurbishment efforts and that only trees impacting the renovation should be removed.
- Uzi Bar-Godda, stated that he opposed the removal of young trees and urged the EQC to save the trees that could potentially become heritage trees in the near future.
- Kaushal Shoon, resident of Sharon Green, expressed that he enjoys trees and that they are a part of his family.
- Ashley Hall, nearby resident, stated that he purposefully walks through the complex to get to a shopping plaza across the street because he enjoys the beauty of the trees. He encouraged the EQC to look at each individual tree and only approve the removal of trees in poor health.

ACTION: Motion and second (DeCardy/London) to recommend approval of the Heritage Tree removal permits with the following recommendations passes (4-0-4) (Yayes: DeCardy, Dickerson, London, Marshall; Absent/Abstain: Bedwell, Martin, Smolke)

1. That the applicant increase replacement tree ratio higher than the current 1:1; and
2. Stagger tree removals to preserve the tree canopy cover; and
3. The project and existing/future property owners ensure that there are "N" number of heritage trees on the whole property at all times going forward. The number "N" should be determined to be no less than the current total of heritage trees on the entire site, but also could be set at a higher level or set to increase in future years.; and Consider preserving trees approaching heritage tree size, including the 22 smaller trees slated for removal.

The Commission takes a five minute break at 8:54 p.m.

- D3. Consider a recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council on a request to remove 59 heritage trees on property located at 1300 El Camino Real ([Attachment](#)) – 1 hour – Thomas Rogers, Principal Planner

Principal Planner, Thomas Rogers, provided the Commission with a brief overview of the proposed project.

Landscape Architect, Bruce Jett provided the Commission with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the project.

Public Comment

- Ann Kortlander asked that the EQC take another look at the nine, native trees proposed for removal because they look relatively healthy. She also expressed her support for staff's recommendation to incorporate as many California natives in the project's replanting and tree replacement plan.

ACTION: Motion and second (Marshall/Dickerson) to recommend approval of the Heritage Tree removal permits with the following recommendations passes (4-0-3) (Yayes: DeCardy, Dickerson, London, Marshall; Absent/Abstain: Bedwell, Martin, Smolke)

1. Consider alternatives to preserve or relocate the nine native trees located on the back of the property; and
2. Revise the landscape plans to use as many California native plants and trees as possible

- D4. Approve June 22, 2016 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes ([Attachment](#)) – 2 mins

ACTION: Motion and second (Marshall/Dickerson) to approve the June 22, 2016 EQC minutes passes (4-0-3) (Yayes: DeCardy, Dickerson, London, Marshall; Absent/Abstain: Bedwell, Martin, Smolke)

E. Reports and Announcements

- E1. Update on Heritage Tree Ordinance implementation and revisions – 5 minutes – Christian Bonner, Vanessa Marcadejas, and Heather Abrams

City Arborist, Christian Bonner, updated the Commission on the City's new Contract Arborist, who will be tasked with evaluating Project Arborist reports, Tree Protection Plans, and provide on-site inspection to ensure tree protection measures are in place one month after Notice to Proceed.

Vanessa Marcadejas, and Heather Abrams provided the Commission with an update on the Heritage Tree Ordinance Update Project. Staff met internally to discuss roles and responsibilities in implementing the existing ordinance, challenges, and potential solutions. As a next step staff plans on issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project to get a consultant on board.

E2. Future Agenda Items

- EQC new two-year Work Plan
- Potential Heritage Tree Appeals

H. Adjournment

Vice Chair London adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Vanessa Marcadejas, Senior Sustainability Specialist