



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

MINUTES Regular Meeting June 5, 2002

Burgess Recreation Center, Room 112
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Carney at 7:20 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Frank Carney, Deirdre Digrande, Brielle Johnck, Mary Kenney, Dalbir Negi

Commissioners Absent: Theo Keet, Mark McBirney

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Walt Fujii, Contract Arborist

Public present: Doug and Maureen Teter, Bob Creamer, Kathleen Simoudis

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dianne Dryer distributed new Commissioners Notebooks.

The July Environmental Quality Commission meeting will be on July 10, 2002 rather than July 3rd, due to the July 4th holiday.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2002: Dalbir Negi requested inclusion of his comment under item C-2 that most of the Heritage Tree Award nominations are from the Commissioners rather than the public and that more effort should be made to obtain nominations from the public. Minutes approved as amended, M/S: Johnck/Kenney. Motion carried 5 - 0.

2. Appeal of Heritage Tree permit denial at 1007 Lemon Street: Dianne Dryer summarized the background given in the staff report, which was attached to the agenda. She also distributed a letter to the City dated June 4, 2002 from PG & E stating that the company recommends removal of the palm tree due to its proximity to high voltage power lines which present a fire danger. Walt Fujii concurred with the recommendation. The applicant Kathleen Simoudis stated her reasons for wanting to remove the tree and her interest in relocating it if feasible.

M/S Kenney/Digrande to grant the appeal, allowing removal of the tree due to hazardous conditions. Motion carried 4 – 0 with one abstention (Negi).

3. Appeal of Heritage Tree permit denial at 1155 Santa Cruz Avenue:

Dianne Dryer summarized the background given in the staff report, which was attached to the agenda. No one was present to speak on behalf of the appeal. Three neighbors spoke to the Commission about their objections to the removal of the two trees. M/S Johnck/Negi to deny the appeal, upholding the denial of the permit. Motion carried 5 –0.

(Due to improper noticing about this appeal hearing, the Commission's action to deny the appeal was declared null and void by the City afterward. The hearing will be agendized and noticed again for the July 10, 2002 Commission meeting.)

4. Selection of Heritage Tree Awards: Dalbir Negi stated that he would like more property owners to nominate trees. It was decided that this topic would be discussed at the next meeting. The Commission went on to select three award winners from the five nominations. Awards will be prepared for owners of properties at 856 Creek Dr., 325 Claremont Way and Stone Pine Lane (for 22 redwoods in the common area). Mary Kenney will write letters for those who were not selected. Dianne Dryer will write letters to the winners and prepare plaques for presentation at the June 18, 2002 City Council meeting. Theo Keet had volunteered to take photos at the May Commission meeting.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dianne Dryer