



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

July 10, 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, Mark McBirney

Commissioners Absent: Theo Keet

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

Public present: Paul Fay, Gary Newcomb, Levi Newcomb, Doug and Maureen Teeter, Bob Creamer, Gary Andeen, Harry Harrison

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frank Carney praised Commissioner Mary Kenney for her thoughtful presentation of the Heritage Tree Awards at the City Council meeting.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2002: Minutes approved, M/S: Negi/Johnck. Motion carried 5 - 0.

2. Appeal of Heritage Tree permit denial at 1155 Santa Cruz Ave: Dianne Dryer stated that the June 5, 2002 hearing on this appeal was nullified due to insufficient noticing. She then briefly summarized the background given in the staff report, which was attached to the agenda. The applicant, Paul Fay, stated that his primary reason for requesting permission to remove the two heritage tulip trees in his backyard was to allow more sunlight. His wife wants to put in a flower garden and they both would like to have more sunlight in the backyard. He said that there are currently 11 heritage trees on the 14,000 square foot property (including the two tulip trees in question), as well as many smaller trees. When asked by the Commission about the reason for removal stated on his application form ("plan to put in a pool"), he replied that they have no plans for a pool now. Mr. Fay's arborist, Ralph

Newcomb, stated that he had found a 13 inch cavity high in one of the trees which will rot eventually, causing a hazard.

Four neighbors of the property spoke. Bob Creamer objected to the removal. Gary Andeen stated that he had no objection to the removal of the trees. Doug and Maureen Teeter both objected to the removal. Ms. Teeter showed a map indicating properties of surrounding neighbors who had signed a petition against the removal, numbering 19.

Walt Fujii stated that the trees pose no hazard and are in good health, but need pruning, which would also allow more sunlight. He said they could live another 40 years with proper maintenance.

Commissioners stated that the trees appear to be of great value to a majority of the neighbors. They inquired if Mr. Fay had explored pruning and landscaping alternatives that would allow the trees to remain, which he said he had not.

Motion to deny the appeal, MK/BJ carried 6 – 0 (Keet absent).

3. Appeal of Heritage Tree permit denial at 1385 Corinne Lane

The appeal was withdrawn by the applicant on July 9, 2002. Ms. Irene Tam told Dianne Dryer that they would have the two Monterey Pine trees pruned and wait to see if they feel comfortable with them.

4. Heritage Tree Awards program evaluation: Dalbir Negi stated that he would like more property owners to nominate trees. Commissioners discussed methods of announcing the nomination period and purpose of the program, including announcements at other Commission meetings, Council meetings and community meetings. Commissioners expressed interest in having feature articles in the newspapers and City newsletter about the Commission and its mission and programs.

5. City tree pruning during nesting season: Topic postponed until more research can be done.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dianne Dryer