



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

August 7, 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 7:25 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Frank Carney, Theo Keet, Dalbir Negi, Mark McBirney

Commissioners Absent: Deirdre Digrande, Brielle Johnck, Mary Kenney

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

Public present: Charles and Kathy Erpenbeck, Harry Harrison

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harry Harrison suggested that the Commission should develop an agenda and make recommendations to the City Council on other environmental issues.

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dianne Dryer announced that the City is recruiting a full-time staff arborist (the role has been filled by a contractor since last April).

Commissioner Carney announced that Dalbir Negi's second term on the Commission is ending this month, so he will be leaving the Commission. Everyone expressed appreciation for his years of service. Frank Carney's first term is ending this month and he will apply for a second term.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2002: Minutes approved, M/S: McBirney/Negi.

2. Appeal of Heritage Tree permit denial at 1012 Windsor Drive: Dianne Dryer reviewed the background and staff actions related to the request from Charles and Kathy Erpenbeck to remove two heritage redwood trees. (An additional redwood in the group was previously approved by staff for removal.) As summarized in the staff report to the Commission, one tree is located nine feet and nine inches from the house and the other is fifteen feet and eight inches from the house. Both trees are in good health. Kathy Erpenbeck stated that they want to relocate the trees and have found an arborist who is willing to move them. The owners finished remodeling their home and want to put new landscaping in the area of the redwood trees. They feel that the trees are too close to the house and will soon become large enough to

impact the house. They stated that grading near the trees now causes water to flow toward the house. The Erpenbecks obtained 19 signatures of residents supporting removal and relocation of the trees. The Commission discussed the feasibility of relocating the trees and the possibility of removing one tree and preserving the other one (farthest from the house). No one present at the meeting could say with any certainty that one tree could be removed without harming the other tree (or both trees). Commissioner Keet moved to allow the removal of both trees upon submission and approval by staff of a definite relocation plan for both trees. Motion failed due to a tie vote: Keet and Carney / yes; Negi and McBirney / no. Commissioner Negi moved to allow only the removal of the tree nearest the house upon submission and approval by staff of a definite relocation plan for the tree. Motion failed due to a tie vote: Keet and Carney / no; Negi and McBirney / yes. Commissioner Carney moved to postpone the decision until the September 4 Commission meeting so that 1) more Commissioners could participate in the vote, 2) Walt Fujii can obtain more details on the feasibility of removing and relocating one tree only (without jeopardizing either tree), 3) Dianne Dryer can check with the City Attorney about whether or not the Commission can overturn staff's denial of a permit with conditions attached, such as a requirement that a tree be relocated. Motion passed 3/0 (Negi opposed).

4. Environmental Quality Awards planning: Dianne Dryer introduced the awards nomination process and passed out nomination forms from last year. She asked that Commissioners forward any suggestions for changes to the form to her by August 30. She will bring multiple copies of the 2002 forms to the September 4 Commission meeting. Theo Keet and Mark McBirney will co-chair the program.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dianne Dryer