



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

September 4, 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, Deirdre Digrande, Brielle Johnck, Mary Kenney, Mark McBirney

Commissioners Absent: Theo Keet

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

Public present: Charles and Kathy Erpenbeck, Myron Gananian, Harry Harrison

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harry Harrison suggested that the Commission should change its meeting time to 7:30 p.m.

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dianne Dryer announced that the appeal hearing on the Commission's denial of the permit to remove two heritage trees at 1155 Santa Cruz Avenue is scheduled for the City Council meeting on September 17, 2002.

Dianne Dryer announced that on October 12, 2002 the City will host a Bike Donation Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind the old Police Dept. building off Laurel Street. Bikes received will be donated to needy families through a County program aimed at educating the public about the values of giving away, rather than throwing away. Volunteers are needed to help at the Menlo Park event.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2002: Minutes approved, M/S: McBirney/Carney.

2. Appeal of Heritage Tree permit denial at 1012 Windsor Drive:

Dianne Dryer reviewed the background, staff and Commission actions related to the request from Charles and Kathy Erpenbeck to remove two heritage redwood trees. She stated that the City Attorney advised her that it is permissible for the Commission to require conditions on an approval of a heritage tree removal permit, such as relocation. Walt Fujii reported that he had discussed with the Erpenbeck's arborist the possibility of removing one tree without damaging either

or both trees. It is possible, although more risky and time consuming. The Erpenbecks stated that they wish to relocate both trees rather than remove and destroy them. They are willing to continue searching for a recipient for them. Mary Kenney moved to grant the appeal to remove the trees without conditions. Brielle Johnck seconded the motion. Motion failed on a tie vote with one abstention. Frank Carney moved to permit the removal of both trees with a condition for relocation subject to staff verification, however if no relocation can be arranged before March 1, 2003, the applicant may then return to the Commission for a reconsideration of the permit without conditions. The motion passed three in favor (Carney, Digrande, McBirney), one opposed (Johnck) and one abstention (Kenney).

3. Appeal of Heritage Tree permit denial at 1111 Johnson Street:

Dianne Dryer reviewed the background and staff actions related to the permit application from Myron Gananian to remove a heritage redwood tree due to damage it is causing to the adjacent cement patio. Staff denied the permit application for removal of the 26.8 inch diameter tree because it is in good health and structure, there is no evidence that the tree presents a hazard, and feasible alternatives to removal of the tree exist (e.g. removing a portion of the patio to examine the roots to ascertain the possibility of pruning the roots to minimize or prevent further damage to the patio). Mr. Gananian stated that the damage being caused to the patio will continue to worsen and that replacement or repair of the patio and root pruning were not options he would consider. Walt Fujii noted that removal of the tree might cause more damage to the patio and would not actually solve the problem of the lifted pavement. Brielle Johnck moved to deny the appeal; Mark McBirney seconded the motion. Motion passed three in favor (Johnck, McBirney, Carney) and two against (Kenney, Digrande).

- 4. Environmental Quality Awards planning:** Dianne Dryer passed out nomination forms, stating that she will forward them by email also. The form has been put on the City website and distributed to City locations. The deadline is October 25, 2002.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dianne Dryer