



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

## MINUTES

**January 8, 2003**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
701 Laurel 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, Mary Kenney, Kevin McCarthy, Theo Keet, Laura Teksler

**Commissioners Absent:** Mark McBirney

**Staff present:** Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Justin Murphy, Principal Planner  
Walt Fujii, Contract Arborist

**Public present:** Felix Mao, Gary Newgard, 3 members of the Home of Christ Church, Lee Duboc

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS** None

## **B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Laura Teksler, the newest member of the Environmental Quality Commission, was introduced. Laura has a degree in Environmental Sciences, and has worked for state and local governments and non-profit organizations on environmental issues. She is the former director of the Business Environmental Network.

Dianne Dryer distributed forms for Commissioners to specify their contact information to be listed on the City website.

Dianne Dryer and Justin Murphy reviewed the circumstances leading to the December 31, 2002 removal of a heritage redwood tree on Santa Cruz Avenue after a storm, which had made it hazardous. A removal permit had been granted previously, but an appeal was received just before the storm occurred. Unfortunately the City had to allow immediate removal due to the hazardous condition of the tree.

Dianne Dryer announced that the City is in the final stages of hiring a full time arborist, who is expected to begin work in February. She will invite him to a Commission meeting.

Frank Carney noted an article in the newspaper about the federal government's purchase of salt ponds in our area.

## **C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2002:** M/S: Keet/McCarthy. Approved.

**2. Appeal of Heritage Tree Removal Permit Denial (71 Bay Road)**

The applicant for the property owned by the Home of Christ Church, Felix Mao, stated that they want to remove the 19 inch valley oak to allow for a new driveway and parking spaces in conjunction with construction of new buildings. Gary Newgard, the architect for the project, stated that the Church had agreed to redesign the new buildings in order to preserve as many trees on the property as possible. The Commissioners asked staff and the architect questions about staff's recommendation to re-align the driveway to allow preservation of the tree in question. The arborist discussed the possible impacts to the tree if the driveway was located too close to it (in order to keep the parking spaces). If the spaces were not eliminated, and pavers were put next to the tree, the cost would be substantial. The Commission voted to overturn staff's denial of a removal permit, motioned by Keet/Kenney (5 in favor, 1 abstain, 1 absent).

**3. Election of Commission Officers**

Theo Keet was elected as Chairperson for 2003. Mary Kenney was elected as Vice Chairperson.

**4. Selection of Program Coordinators**

Frank Carney and Deirdre Digrande will coordinate the Heritage Tree Awards. Mary Kenney and Kevin McCarthy will coordinate the Environmental Quality Awards. Dianne Dryer will ask Mark McBirney to coordinate Arbor Day. Laura Teksler will assist with coordination of Arbor Day.

Kevin McCarthy suggested an event for this Spring: Computer and TV Recycling Day. The event would allow residents to turn in various types of electronics for recycling. Dianne Dryer will meet with Kevin to explore details and return to the Commission at the February meeting with a proposal, if feasible.

## **D. INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.