



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2005

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Kocher at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Doug Scott, Rick Stevens , Dan Kocher, Frank Carney, Bob Swezey

Commissioners Absent: Mary Kenney, Sarah Granger

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Juan Alvarez, City Arborist
Justin Murphy, Development Services Manager

Public present: Todd Adair, Kevin Fryer, Neal Woolner

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Scott spoke with a Chamber of Commerce representative about presentation of Environmental Awards to businesses at a Chamber meeting and was told that there are no large meetings, but that an announcement would be put in the newsletter. The Awards presentation at the City Council meeting on June 21st was very well received. All but one of the recipients were present to receive their awards. One company brought several employees and said that the award was featured in the national corporate newsletter. Rick Stevens suggested that Commissioners express support for tree maintenance in the upcoming budget process. He also acknowledged outgoing Commissioner Mary Kenney's fine contributions to the Commission and the community. Commissioners expressed interest in changing the date of the September meeting due to the Labor Day holiday, so Dianne Dryer will propose and circulate a new date. The City Clerk has requested that speakers at City Council meetings who are City commissioners identify whether they are speaking as an individual or, with direction of their Commission, on behalf of their Commission. Doug Scott volunteered to survey Middle Avenue for gaps in the frequency of street trees and report back locations without trees.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2005: Motioned (DS/DK); approved unanimously.

2. Review of Proposal to Remove 50 Heritage Trees at 110 and 175 Linfield Drive in Connection with a Proposed Residential Development Project

Kevin Fryer, representing the development company, gave an overview of revisions to the project, which include fewer removals of heritage trees and additional open space and landscaping. He said that due to the usefulness as screens, most of the Monterey Pines at the rear of 110 Linfield would be preserved. Only those in poor condition would be removed. He stated that due to utility easements, it would not be possible to add more trees along the southern edge of 175 Linfield to serve as a screen. He also reviewed the plans for replacement trees. Commissioners agreed that some of the proposed replacement species were too small and that there should be flexibility in the number of trees required for replacement because of space constraints. They suggested fewer trees, with as many larger species as possible, at a 1 to 1 ratio at least. Juan Alvarez suggested white birch and oaks (preferred over magnolias). Commissioners expressed interest in native species to blend with surrounding neighborhood, provide habitat and conserve water. It was moved and seconded (BS/DS) to recommend to the City Council approval of the proposed removals, subject to a revision of the replacement tree plan (at staff's discretion) that includes more tree species that will reach 30 feet in height at maturity, natives and trees from the recommended replacement list, and a number of replacement trees at a ratio of at least 1 to 1. Motion approved unanimously.