



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2007

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Doug Scott (Chair), Dan Kocher, Martin Engel, Jeanne Durnford ,
Jeff Jahnke

Commissioners Absent: Bob Swezey, Rick Stevens

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Juan Alvarez, City Arborist

Public present: Six residents from Hallmark Circle area.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of June 6, 2007 Minutes: Unanimously approved.

2. Appeal of Denied Permit for Removal of Heritage Tree at 45 Hallmark Circle:
Dianne Dryer presented the staff report stating that the City Arborist had denied the permit because the Coast Live Oak is in good condition and the evidence of minor fungal infection could be remedied by reducing irrigation under the tree and application of phosphite solution. The water from sprinklers is causing the fungus. Residents from the neighborhood and 45 Hallmark Circle stated that they want the tree removed because limbs overhanging the side of the street cause a safety hazard for pedestrians and vehicles, and that acorns on the street may cause pedestrians to slip and be hurt. They also believe that the tree is growing too close to another oak tree. The City Arborist stated that the tree canopy should be properly pruned to reduce the low canopy over the street. He also stated that the tree will not get much larger very soon because clay soil in that area stunts the growth of oaks. Commissioners pointed out that neither of the arborists who examined the tree recommended removal, that the Diagnostic Report recommended methods to reduce the fungal problem, that acorns and leaves can be swept out of the street and driveway, that the watering of the tree should be discontinued, and that the tree does not meet the criteria for good cause for removal under the Heritage Tree Ordinance. A motion was made (DK/ME) to deny the appeal, and it unanimously passed. Commissioners asked staff to include instructions in the letter to the applicant to reduce or eliminate watering under the

tree and to conduct proper pruning.

3. Environmental Quality Awards: Nomination forms will be put on the City website, into the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, on cable TV and publicized through a news release. Forms are due to Dianne Dryer on October 8, 2007. Nominees should be projects or efforts by individuals, businesses or community groups that demonstrate exceptional and exemplary environmental initiatives.

4. Street Tree Reforestation: Dianne Dryer announced that in budget deliberations in June, the City Council added \$80,000 for tree planting in City parks. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the new funding, but would like to see trees planted this year in both parks and along streets throughout the city.

C. Reports and Announcements: Doug Scott reported that he is on the local committee to advise on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, as it relates to the area east of Bayfront Park and next to the approach to the Dumbarton Bridge. It is an expensive, long term project which will include some flood protection, passive recreational components, habitat restoration, and possibly an educational kiosk in Bayfront Park. The website for the project is www.southbayrestoration.org. Dianne Dryer reported that she met recently with representatives from Canopy, a non-profit organization in Palo Alto that assists cities with tree planting and educating residents about caring for trees. Their website is www.canopy.org.