



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 7, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti (Chairperson), Butch Byers, Jeanne Durnford, Megan Gutelius, Mitch Slomiak, Doug Scott and Daniel Kocher.

Staff Present: Kent Steffens, Deputy City Manager; Rebecca Fotu, Environmental Programs Manager and Regina Wheeler, Environmental Programs Specialist.

Public Present: Saad and Robin Shaban

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of June 2, 2010, Minutes

Commissioner Scott motioned to approve the minutes, subject to the following amendment (in italics) to paragraph three in B4, as suggested by Commissioner Kocher:

Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti motioned that the *owners* solicit additional information regarding alternatives *that would preserve the tree while addressing the owners' concerns regarding the driveway, drainage and sewer line.*

Commissioner Kocher seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Heritage Tree Appeal, 946 Florence Lane

Staff Report by Regina Wheeler indicates that the tree is in good condition and that reasonable alternatives to address concerns remain unexplored. Kent Steffens elaborated on possible alternatives, such as an area drain. Staff recommends denial of the plaintiffs appeal.

Commissioners Kocher, Slomiak and Kuntz-Duriseti expressed concern that the additional information presented by Mr. and Mrs. Shaban did not adequately respond to the Commission's request for more information on how to address the owners' concerns with the tree intact. Commissioner Kocher questioned whether the driveway could be redesigned to allow room for the tree and drainage, e.g. limit the number of parking spots. The owners maintained that preserving two parking spaces per apartment unit was critical.

Commissioners Scott, Durnford and Gutelius stressed the temporary nature of alternatives to address the owners' concerns, since the continued growth of the tree and proximity to the building structure would necessitate additional interventions in the future. The marginal costs of the alternatives were compared and discussed.

Commissioner Scott motioned that the Commissioner grant the appeal to remove the tree, subject to stated staff recommendations. Commissioner Durnford seconded. Commissioners

Byers, Durnford, Gutelius and Scott voted in favor of granting the appeal. Commissioners Kocher and Kuntz-Duriseti dissented. Commissioner Slomiak was absent.

3. Integrated Pest Management

Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti reported that city staff is exploring alternative options to pesticide use along Sand Hill heading east at the intersections of 280 and Oak Ave. Dave Mooney intends to implement these changes for this coming winter (2010-2011) and will report back to the Commission during the fall.

4. Environmental Quality Awards

The commission reviewed the nomination form and suggested combining the Residential and Commercial Architectural categories into a single category and adding a category on Education and Outreach. The Commission liked the chart used for award winners last year. The nomination deadline will be September 17th.

C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Recognition of Commissioners Durnford and Gutelius.

Regina Wheeler presented outgoing Commissioners Durnford and Gutelius with certificates of appreciation from Mayor Cline. We thank Commissioners Durnford and Gutelius for their service and dedication.

2. Confirmation of August meeting cancelled

Commissioner Scott motioned to uphold decision from June 2 meeting to cancel the August meeting; Commissioner Byers seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti with assistance from Ms. Wheeler.