



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

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

**Commissioners Present:** Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti (Chairperson), Lawrence Byers, Daniel Kocher, Kathy Schrenk and Mitch Slomiak.

**Absent:** Doug Scott.

**Staff Present:** Regina Wheeler, Environmental Programs Specialist, and Rebecca Fotu, Environmental Programs Manager.

**Public Present:** Bill Dempsey, Katherine Strehl, Fred Hoffman, Kent Fields, David Lo, Steve Sisney, Dan Hitt, Tom Jackson.

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

## **B. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **1. Approval of September 1, 2010, Minutes**

Commissioner Slomiak motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Kocher seconded. Commissioner Byers abstained in the vote; the remaining commissioners voted to approve the minutes.

### **2. Heritage Tree Appeal, 615 Laurel Avenue**

Rebecca Fotu presented the staff report summarizing the staff decision to support removal of the tree based on criteria 1, 5, 6 and 8 in the Heritage Tree Ordinance.

Considerations in support of the tree removal in addition to the findings in the staff report include:

1. Material damage to Mr. Hitt from loss of sale of property as a result of Mr. Lo's appeal,
2. Outstanding legal settlement would remain in disclosure packet in listing of property,
3. The extensive research completed by court supported removal,
4. The tree under consideration is not an "exemplar" or "distinguished" specimen.

Commissioner Kocher motioned to support the staff recommendation to deny the appeal and approve the tree removal; Commissioner Schrenk seconded. Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti voted against the motion on the grounds that the house structure does not exhibit damage to its foundation and speculation of "likely" damage is not sufficient to warrant the tree removal. The remaining commissioners voted in support of the motion; the appeal is denied by a vote of 4-1.

### **3. Two-Year Work Plan**

The city staff requests completion of the two-year work plan by December 2010. Commissioners are asked to survey informally Menlo Park residents regarding the role and goals of the commission.

Commissioners requested information regarding resources available to address environmental issues and accountability for completed projects. Commissioners expressed a desire for Menlo Park to be a leader in environmental protection and sustainability and a need for specified indicators and metrics to assess our progress and achievement of goals. Identified areas of consideration may include: carbon emissions, water use and quality, solid waste, trees, energy use, building and construction, air quality, noise and light pollution, and regional watershed.

Discussion of this item is continued to next meeting.

### **4. Environmental Quality Awards**

Deadline extended to October 25; voted deferred until next meeting.

### **5. Integrated Pest Management**

Dave Mooney has scheduled a pilot project for the intersection of Oak Ave and Sand Hill during the 2010-2011 winter season.

Commissioners requested a follow-up regarding purported fire regulations.

### **6. Carbon Offset Grant Application**

Regina Wheeler informed the commission of a grant application for \$350,000 to plant trees and shrubs at Bedwell Bayfront Park as part of a carbon offset program related to the widening of Highway 84. One thousand additional native trees and shrubs are expected to offset 200,000 pounds annually of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Commissioners questioned whether the planting would disrupt the landfill seal and create a methane (??) leak. Ms. Wheeler confirmed that a geologist had been consulted and verified inadequate four to ten foot cap. Commissioner Byers stated that city engineers do not recommend plant. The commission requests further verification of this issue.

## **C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Commissioner Appreciation Event scheduled for October 12.

2. Commissioner Slomiak announced an information meeting on 10/13 on Proposition 23, which suspends AB 32 regulations on carbon emissions.

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