



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION FINAL MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center – Oak Room
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025

This meeting was called to order by Chair Scott Marshall at 6:45 pm

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chris DeCardy, Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti, Scott Marshall (Chair), Mitchel Slomiak, Christina Smolke

Absent: Allan Bedwell

A. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 30 minutes)

No comment

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

- B1.** Make a Determination on Two Heritage Trees Appeals at 1020 Hermosa Way ([Attachment](#))

Public Comment

Joy Zhu, 1020 Hermosa Way property owner, briefed the Commission on the condition of the trees and her overriding safety hazard concern.

(Commissioner Martin arrives at 6:54pm)

Mary Ann Robbiano, appellant and property owner of 1000 Hermosa Way, along with her two daughters, Kathleen and Angela, recited a Native American poem regarding trees. Mrs. Robbiano has lived next door to 1020 Hermosa Way for 56 years, in which the trees have not posed immediate concern.

Diane Kinderman, attorney representing 1020 Hermosa Way property owner, noted 1) the coastal redwoods lack structural integrity, 2) safety of property owner's home, 3) safety of neighbors, and 4) concerns of liability.

Kathleen Robbiano, daughter of appellant, recited a passage from Dr. Seuss's book, The Lorax. Ms. Robbiano reminded the public and EQC of our interdependence with trees.

Betsy Nash, neighborhood member, spoke against removal of the coastal redwoods. Ms. Nash noted that the development plans submitted for 1020 Hermosa Way did not include the heritage trees.

Elizabeth Williams, friend of Mrs. Robbiano and property owner of 973 Alice Way, expressed her support for keeping the trees.

Dotty King, property owner of 925 Hermosa Way, noted that the heritage trees are close to the street, which benefits the neighborhood. Ms. King was in support of keeping the trees.

Allison Hale, previous property owner of 916 Hermosa Way and current property owner of 645 Hermosa Way, painted a verbal picture of the neighborhood and expressed her support in keeping the trees.

Martha Bacon, property owner of 790 Hermosa Way, recalled the topping of the coastal redwoods 15 years ago. Mrs. Bacon supported keeping the trees and expressed that removing the trees would change the character of the neighborhood.

Tom Bacon, husband to Martha Bacon and property owner of 790 Hermosa Way, objected to the topping of the coastal redwoods 15 years ago. Mr. Bacon advocated that the trees add value to the community and take precedence over development. Mr. Bacon noted that there is no imminent danger and thus removal is not necessary at this time.

Susan Schendel, property owner of 1001 Hermosa Way, supported the cabling and pruning of the coastal redwoods.

Carol Mince, property owner of 1300 Middle Ave, voiced her experience in the removal of trees within the Middle Avenue neighborhood. Ms. Mince was in support of keeping the heritage trees.

Sally Cole, property owner of 1235 Santa Cruz Ave, stated photos in the staff report packet do not display the beauty of the heritage trees. Ms. Cole noted that property owners have a responsibility when purchasing a home with heritage trees.

Nancy Devine, property owner of 618 Hermosa Way, welcomed the property owner of 1020 Hermosa Way to the neighborhood. Ms. Devine also voiced that if these trees are removed, they cannot be replaced with similar size and age trees.

ACTION: Motion and second (Slomiak/Martin) to uphold the appeal based on criteria 4, 5, 6, and 8 of the Heritage Tree Ordinance, as there are reasonable alternatives, passes (6-0 1) (Absent: Bedwell)

(Chair moved item B3 before item B2)

B3. Discuss and Review the Water Resource Policy Subcommittee's Recommendations on New State Water Mandates (*Handout*)

ACTION: No formal action was taken. Heather Abrams, Environmental Programs Manager, provided a brief informational update on the new state water mandates.

- B2.** Discuss and Make Recommendations to City on the Updated Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy ([Attachment](#)) ([Handout](#))

ACTION: Motion and second (Kuntz-Duriseti/Slomiak) to appoint Commissioner DeCardy to draft a recommendation letter to the City on changes to the draft IPM Policy based on the EQC discussion, passes (6-0-1) (Absent: Bedwell)

- B4.** Informational Presentation from Diane Bailey, Executive Director of Menlo Spark on the California Clean Power Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

ACTION: No formal action was taken. Diane Bailey provided a brief overview of California Clean Power CCA. The EQC would like to reagendize the item at the next commission meeting.

- B5.** Discuss and Make Recommendations to the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)

ACTION: Motion and second (DeCardy/Kuntz-Duriseti) to reagendize item for next EQC meeting, passes (6-0-1) (Absent: Bedwell)

- B6.** Discuss Arbor Day Tree Planting Event

ACTION: No formal action was taken. Chair Marshall will continue his role in leading the annual tree planting event as in previous years. The Commission will receive a brief overview of the event during the next EQC meeting.

- B7.** Discuss Cancellation of summer EQC Meeting

ACTION: Motion and second (DeCardy/Martin) to cancel the July EQC meeting, passes (6-0-1) (Absent: Bedwell)

- B8.** Approve March 25, 2015 Minutes ([Attachment](#))

ACTION: Motion and second (Marshall/Martin) to approve March 25, 2015 minutes, passes (5-0-2) (Absent: Bedwell; Abstain: Kuntz-Duriseti)

C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- C1.** Staff Update on Environmental Policies to be Considered by City Council

- C2.** Commission Subcommittee Reports and Announcements

- C3.** Discuss Future Agenda Items

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17pm

Meeting minutes taken by Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti, Environmental Quality Commissioner

Meeting minutes prepared by Sheena Ignacio, Environmental Programs Specialist

Minutes accepted at the meeting of June 24, 2015