



## MINUTES DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

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7:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 20, 2013  
Community Chambers, Los Altos City Hall  
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California

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### ESTABLISH QUORUM

Chair MEADOWS called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### ROLL CALL

All Present: Chair MEADOWS, Vice-Chair WHEELER, and Commissioners BLOCKHUS, FARRELL and ZOUFONOUN  
Staff: Planning Services Manager KORNFELD, Senior Planner DAHL and Assistant Planner GALLEGOS (to observe)

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. **Design Review Commission Reorganization**

Nomination of the Design Review Commission Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner FARRELL nominated Commissioner WHEELER as the Design Review Commission Chair and Commissioner WHEELER nominated Commissioner FARRELL as the Vice-Chair.

THE MOTIONS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY and CHAIR WHEELER ASSUMED THE GAVEL.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Design Review Commission Minutes**

Approve minutes of the regular meeting of February 6, 2013

MOTION by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2013 regular meeting.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### PUBLIC HEARING

3. **13-V-04 – S. Nelson – 1446 Wessex Avenue**

Variance application to allow a rear yard setback of 15 feet where 25 feet is required for an addition to an existing one-story house. *Project Planner: Dahl*

Senior Planner DAHL presented the staff report, recommending approval of variance application 13-V-04 subject to the listed findings and conditions.

The project designer commended Planner Dahl on his report. There was no other public comment.

The Commission accepted the staff report.

MOTION by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to approve variance application 13-V-04 per the staff report findings and conditions.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vice-Chair FARRELL recused himself from the 485 Arboleda Drive item due to conflict of interest because he lives within 500 feet of the project address.

## DISCUSSION

### 4. 12-SC-36 – N. Shahiar – 485 Arboleda Drive

Design review for a new, two-story house. The project includes 2,488 square feet on the first story and 1,180 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Dahl*

Senior Planner DAHL presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 12-SC-36 subject to the listed findings and conditions and summarized the revised plans.

The project architect described the revised drawings. Commissioner MEADOWS asked for a material board. Chair WHEELER limited the public speakers to three minutes.

Four neighbors spoke in opposition to the project citing that the balcony size was increased despite the direction change on the second story and it was not removed per the developer's communication, the design was not compatible with the neighborhood, and the house was too big. It was also stated that planting a Liquid Amber tree should be avoided. There was no other public comment.

The Commission discussed the project and made the following comments that: the project does not fit in with the rest of the neighborhood; does not have a rustic material palate, but the mass was reduced; the second story is still too bulky and formal and most homes in the neighborhood were developed to maintain a low profile character; the balcony and roof plan are a design choice; the balcony is an issue, but seems to maintain reasonable privacy; the balcony has impacts and should be made smaller; the side elevations look good with minimal windows; and the street tree should not be a Liquid Amber.

MOTION by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Commissioner ZOUFONOUN, to approve design application 12-SC-36 per the staff report findings and conditions, with the following change:

- Make the required street tree a Category I or II (not a Liquid Amber).

THE MOTION PASSED BY A 3-1 VOTE, WITH COMMISSIONER MEADOWS OPPOSED.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair WHEELER adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.