

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014,  
BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN  
ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

PRESENT: Chair BLOCKHUS, Vice-Chair KIRIK, Commissioners MEADOWS,  
MOISON, and WHEELER (arrived at 7:07 PM)  
STAFF: Assistant City Manager WALGREN and Planning Services Manager  
KORNFIELD

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. **Design Review Commission Minutes**  
Approve minutes of the regular meeting of June 4, 2014.

MOTION by Commissioner MEADOWS, seconded by Vice-Chair KIRIK, to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2014 regular meeting as-amended.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4/0).

Commissioner WHEELER arrives at 7:07 PM.

**DISCUSSION**

2. **14-SC-16 – A. and S. Rajendran – 1064 Laureles Drive**  
Appeal an administrative denial of a design review application for a new, one-story house. The proposal is for a 20-foot tall house with 3,872 square feet in floor area. This item was continued from the May 14, 2014 Design Review Commission meeting. *Project Planner: Kornfield*

Planning Services Manager KORNFIELD presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-16 subject to the findings and conditions.

Project architect Scott Stotler, discussed his preliminary efforts to consider slope stability; conveyed to Commissioner MOISON that the entry dormer roof materials was copper; and explained to Vice-Chair KIRIK that a pooja room is for prayer. There was no public comment.

The Commission discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design changes, noting that the applicant satisfied the direction given to them; and deferred to staff on the creek setback.

MOTION by Commissioner WHEELER, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to approve design review application 14-SC-16 per the staff report findings and conditions.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **3. Design Review Discussion**

- A. Follow-up to Ray Avenue appeal hearing with specific regard to the Relationship of the Zoning Code with the Design Review Guidelines and Findings; and
- B. Future architecture and design review training for the DRC. *Project Planner: Walgren*

Assistant City Manager WALGREN stated that Council's decision was interpreted by the neighbors as throwing out the design guidelines, but explained that was not the case as Council considered zoning regulations and the design guidelines. He said that Council approved the Ray Avenue appeal subject to conditions, but Commissioner MEADOWS said she was unclear on the City Council's action. Chair BLOCKHUS suggested using the Ray Avenue project as a future test case.

Commissioner WHEELER stated that he was approached by a neighbor to represent them in evaluating the City's action; was concerned himself about how the Council handled it and felt they implied that the DRC did not do its full work (even though they did good work and gave the applicant a choice); and was concerned that this would give future applicant the pseudo me that they may go around the DRC.

Vice-Chair KIRIK said he was primarily concerned about development intensity; and should consider counting double height areas (to staff).

Assistant City Manager WALGREN explained the history of the basement rules (tightened) and will consider tightening up the floor area rules.

Commissioner MEADOWS was concerned that the project architect did not disclose her relationship as a Planning and Transportation Commissioner at either DRC meetings she presented at, and felt that Commissioner Bressack's comments offering additional architectural training to the DRC were inappropriately timed for a meeting where a DRC decision was being appealed, thus publicly casting doubt on the competence of the DRC.

Commissioner MOISON suggested looking at the non-habitable areas too, such as inner courts/courtyards and Assistant City Manager WALGREN said he would look into it.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner WHEELER stated that the DRC could also incorporate the cited code into the conditions of approval. Vice-Chair KIRIK said the City should tighten the conditions regarding variances and the less than 50% rule, the extent of construction, etc.

### **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair BLOCKHUS adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.