

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015  
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 and  
WHEELER

ABSENT: Commissioner MOISON

STAFF: Senior Planner DAHL

**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 December 17, 2014.

MOTION by Vice-Chair KIRIK, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 regular meeting as written.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4/0).

**DISCUSSION**

**2. 14-SC-32 – L. and W. Wang – 1274 Thurston Avenue**

Appeal of an administrative design review denial for a new, one-story house. *Project Planner: Dahl*

Senior Planner DAHL presented the staff report recommending denial of the appeal of design review application 14-SC-32 subject to the findings.

Property owner Lance Wang presented reasons to overturn the denial that included: the house is compatible with the neighborhood, the finished floor cannot go any lower due to flooding, and there are other houses in the vicinity with 10-foot plates (Peninsular Avenue/other end of Thurston). Project architect Tri Hong answered questions from the Design Review Commission. There was no other public comment.

The commissioners discussed the project and gave the following comments: concerned about height of the finished floor, plus the 10-foot wall plate height; the pool is driving the project design; good design, but too bulky for the neighborhood; the house scale does not fit in with the immediate neighborhood; lower the plate heights to nine feet; concerned about the proximity of the house to the edge of the existing pool; front elevation should have all arched windows to be consistent; and should deny the project and allow the owner to work with staff on the one-story.

MOTION by Commissioner MEADOWS, seconded by Vice-Chair KIRIK, to deny the appeal for design review application 14-SC-41 per the staff report findings.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4/0).

**3. 14-SC-35 – P. Lew and K. Liang – 643 Milverton Road**

Design review for a two-story house. The project includes 1,957 square feet on the first story and 1,319 square feet on the second story, and a 370 square-foot one-story accessory structure.  
*Project Planner: Gallegos*

Assistant Planner GALLEGOS presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-35 subject to the findings and conditions.

The project architect outlined the project changes and stated that the changes have made the project better. The property owner spoke with concern about traffic safety and said he wanted to keep the circular driveway. There was no other public comment.

The commissioners discussed the project and provided the following comments: good job addressing the DRC comments and well designed project; either roof material on the accessory structure would be okay; and support for the circular driveway.

MOTION by Commissioner WHEELER, seconded by Vice-Chair KIRIK, to approve design review application 14-SC-35 per the staff report findings and conditions, with the following change:

- Remove conditions No. 4 and No. 5.

THE MOTION PASSED BY A 3/1 VOTE, WITH CHAIR BLOCKHUS OPPOSED DUE TO THE CIRCULAR DRIVEWAY.

**4. 14-SC-45 – T.J. Martin Associates, AIA – 847 Clinton Road**

Design review for a two-story house. The project includes 2,290 square feet on the first story and 1,223 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Lim*

Senior Planner DAHL presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-45 subject to the findings and conditions.

The project architect presented the project and spoke in support stating the staff report covered all the issues. There was no other public comment.

The commissioners discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design.

MOTION by Vice-Chair KIRIK, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to approve design review application 14-SC-45 per the staff report findings and conditions,  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4/0).

Chair BLOCKHUS recused himself for agenda item #5 because he lives within 500 feet of the Glen Alto Drive project, and passed the gavel to Vice-Chair KIRIK.

**5. 14-SC-43 – M. Kansky – 582 Glen Alto Drive**

Design review for a two-story house. The project includes 2,254 square feet on the first story and 1,425 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Kornfield*

Senior Planner DAHL presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-43 subject to the findings and conditions.

Project applicant Matt Kansky presented the project and noted that the goal was to work with the neighborhood, that he reduced the eave height from 11 feet to nine and a half, can alter the design to address neighbor privacy concerns, and wants neighbors to be happy.

Four neighbors spoke in opposition and gave the following comments: concerned about the covered patio in the rear yard that has large visual impacts; a flat roof or other design should be used for the covered porch; the roof should be removed or replaced with lower massing or moved to a different location on the lot; concerned about the two-story windows on the side elevation; reduce the number of windows and plant more trees; every other house has a 10-foot side yard setback; and the design is not compatible with the neighborhood. There was no other public comment.

The commissioners discussed the project and provided the following comments: concern about the house maxing the building envelope; concern about the balcony and privacy impacts on a narrow lot; design is too bulky and massive and doesn't fit in the neighborhood; should change height and massing to not tower over the adjacent homes; plans need more detail and work; and the project needs to be continued to address neighbor concerns.

MOTION by Commissioner WHEELER, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to continue design review application 14-SC-43, with the following direction:

- Reduce the bulk and mass for better integration with the neighborhood.
- Work to address the neighbors concerns.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3/0).

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

None.

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair BLOCKHUS adjourned the meeting at 8:32 PM.

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Zachary Dahl, AICP  
Senior Planner