

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015  
BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN  
ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

PRESENT: Chair KIRIK, Vice-Chair MEADOWS, Commissioners BLOCKHUS,  
WHEELER, MEADOWS, and MOISON

STAFF: Planning Services Manager KORNFIELD and Assistant Planners GALLEGOS  
and DAVIS

**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 March 18, 2015.

MOTION by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Vice-Chair MEADOWS, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2015 regular meeting as amended by Vice-Chair MEADOWS and Commissioner BLOCKHUS to correct the motion for item No. 1 for the Election of the Design Review Commission Chair and Vice-Chair.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0).

**DISCUSSION**

**2. 14-SC-46 – M. and P. Sangani – 491 Patrick Way**

Design review for a first- and second-story addition. The project includes an addition of 568 square feet at the first-story and an addition of 404 square feet at the second-story. *Project Planner: Davis*

Assistant Planner DAVIS presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-46 subject to the listed findings and conditions.

Project architect Fred Blome spoke in support of the project stating that he wanted to increase the dormers to a 4:12 pitch to match the existing roof, use wood siding on the existing second story at the front of the house, and a new window on the rear elevation for the stairway. There was no other public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design. Commissioner MOISON noted the three letters received in support of the project.

MOTION Vice-Chair MEADOWS, seconded by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, to approve design review application 14-SC-46 per the staff report findings and conditions, with a condition limiting the scope of the work to not exceed 50 percent of the existing structure as shown on the on the plans.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0).

**3. 15-SC-01 – C. Wu – 1977 Churton Avenue**

Design review for a new, two-story house. The project includes 2,584 square feet on the first-story and 913 square feet on the second-story. *Project Planner: Davis*

Assistant Planner DAVIS presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 15-SC-01 subject to the listed findings and conditions.

Applicant and owner Clifton Wu stated that he wanted to keep the Magnolia tree so he could not decrease the front setback; he limited the height to 24 feet to minimize massing; omitted the balcony from the design to meet the design guidelines; notified the neighbors of his project; and was surprised by the rear neighbor's concerns, since the distance between the structures, landscape and neighbor's patio cover maintains privacy.

Resident Abby Ahrens spoke in support of the project. Neighbors Elie Semaan, Mo Rezvani, and Afshin Faridjoo spoke in opposition of a two-story house and cited privacy impacts and the impacts from landscape along the property line. There was no other public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design. The Commission noted that decreasing the front yard setback was possible since the Magnolia tree was being displaced by the driveway; that the project maintained a reasonable degree of privacy with the window design and proposed landscape mitigation; that the design was similar to a house nearby;

MOTION Commissioner WHEELER, seconded by Commissioner MOISON, to approve design review application 15-SC-01 per the staff report findings and conditions, with the following additional direction:

- A recommendation to decrease the front yard setback to align with the house to the right in context with the neighborhood.

Chair KIRIK then asked for a minimum six-foot decrease in setback to provide certainty.

THE MOTION PASSED BY A 3/2 VOTE, WITH Commissioner BLOCKHUS and Chair KIRIK OPPOSED based on the lack of certainty in the decrease of the front yard setback.

**4. 15-SC-03 – A. and P. Abdollahi – 1151 Volti Lane**

Design review for a new, two-story house. The project includes 2,281 square feet on the first story and 1,215 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Gallegos*

Assistant Planner GALLEGOS presented the staff report recommending continuance of design review application 15-SC-03 subject to recommended direction.

Project applicant and owner Akbar Abdollahi stated that he wanted a 10-foot tall plate height to meet current standards and could make the window changes as desired by the Commission. There was no other public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the project and expressed their support of staff's recommendations. Commissioners expressed concerns about the complex design compared to the character of the

nearby structures, excessive bulk on the second story entry loft, excessive scale of the first story, complex and varied window design and massive side elevations.

MOTION Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Commissioner MOISON, to continue design review application 15-SC-03 per the staff report recommended direction to:

- a. Reduce the prominence and height of the single-story walls of the structure to a height of nine feet;
- b. Simplify the number of windows, shapes and types;
- c. Simplify the massing and design of the structure, including wall and roof forms, to maintain a similar style and character as the immediate neighborhood; and
- d. Provide two Category I or II street trees to be located in the front yard.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0).

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

The Commission noted the Volunteer Reception to be held on April 16, 2015.

#### **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair KIRIK adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

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David Kornfield  
Planning Services Manager