

ATTACHMENT B

Jon Maginot

From: Tim Twerdahl
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2014 9:36 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Redwood Grove & Tuesday's Meeting

Dear Mayor Satterlee and Distinguished Council Members,

My property shares an extensive boundary with and is the property most exposed to Redwood Grove and the activities therein. While I enjoy living next to Redwood Grove, I must say that the City has sometimes been a poor neighbor (extending after-dark hours, placing porta-potties 30-feet from my dining terrace, allowing the primary structure to become decrepit and boarded up).

As you consider improvements to Redwood Grove this coming Tuesday night and into the future, I request that you consider your neighbors and, specifically, remove the new seating platform from the boardwalk redesign plans.

This platform is unneeded and will only exacerbate the illegal uses described in the Staff Report. Having lived next to the Redwood Grove for 13 years and watched those activities go on, I have seen it all: candle-lit (open flame!) seances, Roman Candle fireworks being shot into the trees, lots of smoking, and countless cases of drug use.

The Grove is unlit, unmonitored, and officially open until 9:00 pm (well past when it's safe to be wandering in a pitch black park). The location of the platform will not change how it is used. Please, let's NOT create another venue for these activities by building a new seating platform.

Thank you for your consideration,

Timothy D. Twerdahl

Los Altos

Jon Maginot

From: John Day
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2014 5:44 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Administration
Subject: Agenda Item 7 for Oct 28, 2014

October 28, 2014

To: Los Altos City Council
Meeting of October 28, 2014

From: John Day

Los Altos, CA 94022

Agenda Item 7: **Redwood Grove Bank Stabilization, Project CF-01001 (J. Gustafson)**

I have lived next to the Redwood Grove for 40 years. I was living next to the property when the City purchased it in 1974. My concern is the risk of FIRE.

FIRE HAZZARD

Two years ago a group of young adults left embers from their "smokes" about 10 feet away from the fence that separates my house from the Redwood Grove. A dead log began to smolder and smoke was rising. Fortunately, a neighbor observed the smoke, issued a call for assistance, took a pitcher of water down toward the smoke. Another called 911 while a few neighbors headed for the smoke.

The police K-9 unit was first on the scene. However, she was blocked at the entrance by the padlocked barrier that stops traffic at the entrance. She did not have a key to the lock, but ran in the direction of the fire which was across the bridge, perhaps 100 yards from the entrance to assist the neighbors.

Shortly, a Los Altos Fire Truck appeared at the park entrance. The Fire Truck did not have a key to the padlock either. The fire truck remained behind the police car, and three burly firefighters in full gear, came running toward the fire. Fortunately, one fire fighter found a garden hose at the Halsel House and got a water line over to the location of the fire and doused the area.

A key to the barrier was never located.

After this incident, two neighbors met with the newly installed City Manager, Marcia Somers, and the city Chief of Police, Tuck Younis, in the City Manager's office. We were assured there was no problem since the Fire Truck was equipped with bolt cutters. Unfortunately, in an emergency, no one thought of locating bolt cutters, neither in the police car nor on the fire truck.

I was assured that all the police had a key to the park. Unfortunately, the K-9 unit did not have a key. I question if every police car is carrying a key to the park barrier.

REFERENCE TWERDAHL LETTER

This afternoon I was in the park. There is no garden hose that I could locate and the locked barrier is still secure in place.

I visited the existing observation platform in the park. It is littered with empty beer cans, empty plastic bottles, abandoned soft drink paper cups, and empty potato chip bags. There is no trash can in the area and obviously people do not carry their trash out to the park entrance. There is no garbage service at the observation platform. It is simply an attractive nuisance. It only fosters illegal activities.

Today, the park is a tinder box. The drought has taken its toll. Tree limbs and debris are all over the dry creek bed.

I am sympathetic to the program to mitigate bank erosion. When the rains come, they can be devastating. I do seriously question the merit of the very expensive operation to remove the large concrete structure where the current observation platform is located.

However, I am not sympathetic with building new observations platforms. Visitors can walk through the park and enjoy nature. There are picnic tables across the bridge in an open field – not under the trees. It is under the trees where the debris accumulates that is the fire hazard.

CONCLUSION

The Acterra Plan to restore the banks has to-date been effective near the bridge and promises to fulfil its goal of erosion mitigation.

The walkway restoration and rerouting is reasonable.

Building the observation platforms is an invitation to a disaster. It will attract more illegal and after hours activities in a park where the police cannot enter. I urge you to drop construction of the platforms from the program and drop the expensive removal of the concrete barrier. Save the money.

John F. Day III

Dave Brees

From: James Wing <jameswing@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 3:35 PM
To: Jim Gustafson
Cc: James Walgren; Dave Brees; Marcia Somers; Tuck Younis
Subject: Redwood Grove

Los Altos Mayor Satterlee,

Subject: Council 10/28/2014 Meeting Agenda Item 7, Redwood Grove Creek Bank Restoration

I do not support increasing cost of this CIP from \$372 K to \$727 K and recommend you request staff to eliminate several costly items that are not needed or required by Redwood Grove Master Plan / Parks Master Plan. Redwood Grove is a "nature preserve" and any changes to facilities should only enhance that character. In my opinion some of these changes will degrade the "nature preserve" character. Using concept sketch as basis for decision is risky unless you understand terrain, tree location, dynamics of visitor use, and watch flooding during a storm.

Based on my 46 years of enjoying Redwood Grove and Adobe Creek, I recommend you consider removing the following five optional items and hopefully reduce cost closer to original \$372 K:

1. Do not remove concrete slab used as foundation for wooden platform on Los Altos / Los Altos Hills boundary in Redwood Grove northwest corner. Only remove wooden platform mounted to slab. Concrete slab is really the foundation for a "cabin on the creek" that existed before 1950 and has done a great job of preventing creek bank erosion. Only erosion in this area has been caused by people running up and down creek bank. If it is not broken, do not fix it! A good use for foundation open center is to plant a tree or native plants in it. Since foundation is located on Los Altos / Los Altos Hills boundary, part of it may be on a Los Altos Hills resident's private property.
2. Delete plan for new elevated platform ["seating deck" located near car bridge] and replace with a bench. This new platform will act as a gathering place for picnics and cause trash in Adobe Creek flood plain. It will encourage people walking off platform to explore creek and damage erosion sensitive creek banks. Since the platform in isolated northwest corner is being removed, noisy "young people" parties at night may move to new platform that is only 110 feet from residents home. No platform at all and restricted access from Los Altos Hills Fremont Road may discourage night time parties.
3. Do not remove concrete section of pathway [near "benches relocated"] and replace it with elevated wooden pathway as noted in Parks Commission meeting. This concrete section was installed in 1980 to protect oak tree roots from creek bank erosion and has worked well. Pathway slope meets ADA requirement, cross slope of one center section needs to be checked with only a small cost to bring into compliance if needed.
4. Do not add additional bypass pathway between service road and pathway concrete section. This new bypass that is very close to an Oak tree, has no public functional use and takes up valuable potential native plant space Acterra could use in their planting program. This open space did not exist until Acterra volunteers removed ivy four years ago. Workers in Redwood Grove will be heavy bypass users, visitors will be light users.
5. Steep stairway "link" from elevated pathway to Ridge Trail is the most expensive of five "link" options and is a "stairway to nowhere" in rain season. Ridge Trail gets very slippery during our rain months and people cannot use it. The least expensive option requires no cost to Los Altos CIP, is usable year round, sensitive to hillside erosion, discourages Fremont Road access to nighttime parties, and is already half developed. Options for Ridge Trail "link" have not had a public review by Parks Committee and I recommend you request them to establish a future agenda item. These options are

impossible to describe in words, but I am available to meet you at Redwood Grove to show and explain.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Wing

Milverton Road

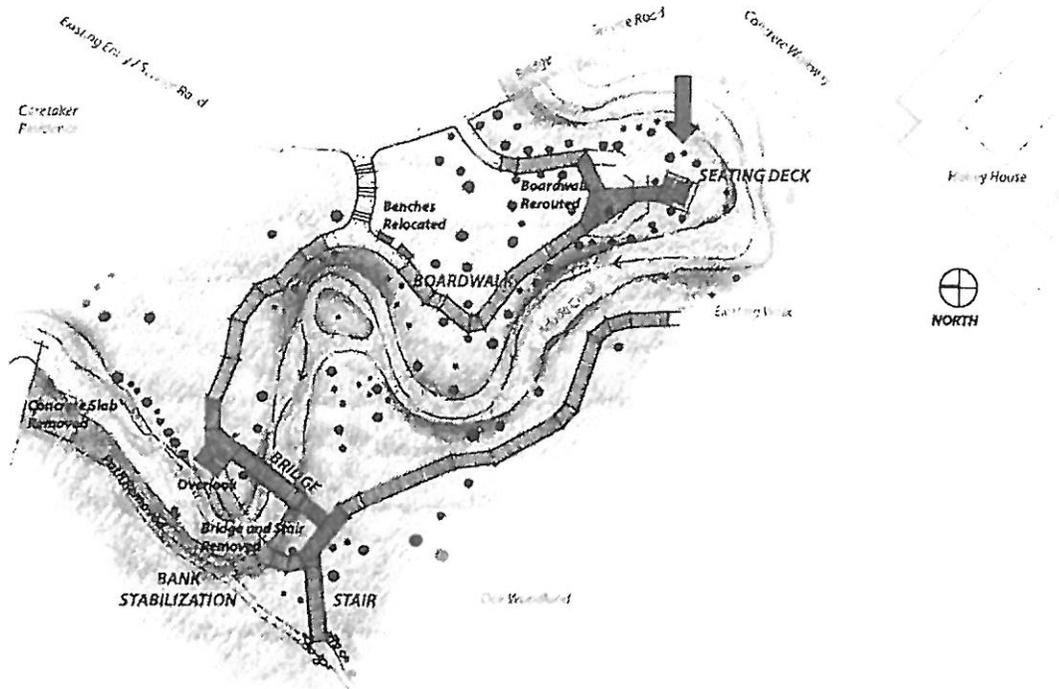
Los Altos, CA

Comment on Preliminary Plan for Redwood Grove Stream Project

Rory Van Tuyl

8/23/2014

The plan as posted includes a pullback of the boardwalk from the floodplain, which is a good thing. But it also envisions the addition of new construction in this area, including a "seating deck" as shown:



Redwood Grove Nature Preserve
Adobe Creek Bank Stabilization Project 12 August 2014

ATTACHMENT 1
Restoration Design Group, LLC

This new construction simply exacerbates the incursion of vulnerable wood and concrete construction into the floodplain, with the attendant need for more future repair work.

At first glance this area would appear to be immune to flooding, since it is well above the deepest part of the existing stream channel. But in fact, it is in the area flooded every time we get heavy rains and should therefore be eliminated from the plan in the interests of economy and preservation of the stream in a natural state.

As evidence of the most recent of many floods I've witnessed in the past 18 years, I present this snapshot from 2010:



As you can see, the proposed seating area is right in the path of the flood and would have been inundated and possibly damaged had it existed in past flood years.

Furthermore, the existing seating area at the park boundary, which is thankfully being removed, is almost completely unused by daytime visitors to the park. It has become, however, a focus for illegal nighttime assemblies, mostly by teenagers. If more seating is desired, add more metal benches. These are popular with the public and do not create a nuisance or obstacle to stream flow, and even if they are flooded, they emerge undamaged.

Ill-advised concrete and wood construction in the past has led to the situation which requires this expensive stream repair project today. We should avoid repeating past bad design choices. NOW is the time to correct these design flaws, before this gets into the realm of public debate and rancor. I urge you to amend the design as soon as possible.

Rory Van Tuyl