

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: 8 July 2008

SUBJECT: Redwood Grove

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Authorize Task Force to proceed with proposed maintenance and planning efforts

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT</u></p> <p>COST:</p> <p>BUDGETED:</p> <p>FUNDING SOURCE:</p> <p>FINANCE DIRECTOR:</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ATTACHMENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force memo of 2 July 2008 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE</u></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tour – 17 June 2008</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CEQA STATUS</u></p>
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 Department Director

 City Manager

 Date

 Date

TO: Mayor Valorie Cook Carpenter
Members of the City Council

FR: Redwood Grove Task Force

DATE: 2 July 2008

RE: Redwood Grove: Course of Action

After the Council's recent tour of Redwood Grove, the Task Force met and discussed the appropriate course of action to pursue at this time. Members of the Task Force have had conversations with neighbors and received transmittals from Mr. Rory Van Tuyl. Based upon these inputs, the Task Force has decided to step back from its initial recommendation to retain a landscape architect and will instead focus on the following items and questions.

-LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE: the Maintenance staff has initiated some cleanup of the property since the departure of the on-site caretaker. There remains extensive work to be done including removal of invasive groundcovers. The Maintenance staff will seek the counsel of a native landscape expert especially for the riparian corridor.

-FIRE SAFETY: The improvement of the pedestrian/vehicular bridge over the creek had long ago been identified as a capital improvement project needed to meet fire safety requirements. The City staff and County fire officials will conduct an assessment of the bridge.

It has been determined that Manresa Way is a private roadway. Staff will explore attaining an easement for emergency access purposes from Manresa Way to the rear of the park.

-IMPROVEMENTS TO STRUCTURES:

Restrooms: Staff will determine whether adequate restroom facilities are possible at the Halsey House or a separate, free-standing structure.

Repair of the Nature Center: Staff has evaluated the building and believes that with wall, floor and roof repairs/replacements, new interior and exterior paint, ADA accessibility improvements and other general repair items, the building can be reopened and used next year.

In 2005, this repair work was identified in the CIP for 2008-09. It was later eliminated in favor of developing a system-wide Parks Master Plan. However, when that decision was made, the Nature Center was still operational. Given that repairing this historically

important building will not likely impact any future planning for Redwood Grove, it is recommended that the CIP project be re-established.

In 2005, the repair was estimated at \$314,000. This amount seems realistic at this time to undertake the repairs previously listed. Cost savings from the original estimate can occur with several aspects of the project.

With a reopened Nature Center, the Caretaker's Cottage should be deconstructed. The Nature Center is a larger and more substantial structure. The Nature Center is a Landmark Eligible historic building while there is little of the cottage that would warrant undertaking further repairs.

Remove the pottery building. The current structure is a liability and no further monies should be invested in its repair.

Authorize the Task Force to work with an architect on a longer term renovation plan for the Nature Center.

Authorize the Task Force to consult with the Historic Commission on enclosing the Nature Center courtyard for a meeting room and on the most appropriate locations near the Center for the location of a restroom building.

A designated ADA parking pad will be installed near the Caretaker's Cottage. An asphalt pad already exists at this location.

There will come a time in the future when the services of a landscape architect are needed but the Task Force is not seeking Council's authorization at this time for those services.

After action has commenced on the above referenced items, the Task Force will schedule another meeting with the City Council and the neighbors to discuss activities to date and future planning concepts.