

**From:** [Curtis Cole](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item 6, 14 Dec 2022: Halsey House  
**Date:** Sunday, December 12, 2021 4:56:36 PM

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Mayor and Councilmembers,

Today I visited Redwood Grove and the Halsey House where my daughters attended some classes with Ranger Keith many years ago. I also read the Nov 30 staff report with its historical background and various options, including a beautiful proposal from Aidlin Darling Design.

My daughters and I have fond memories of the classes at Redwood Grove but otherwise I have no special yearning to recreate those times past. Many residents and I are more interested in the future.

I sense from the results of the Nov 30 special session and in Tuesday's staff report a general lack of consensus about what to do with the building and when to do it. I am confident that money spent to kick this decision down the creek (remaining in the floodplain) will be poorly invested and not serve future citizens well. The few who suggest spending millions to honor their memories are not serving the city well. They won't mention other needs for the funds like the police department nor will they suggest putting this to a citizen's vote as they understand it would not be favorably evaluated.

Ultimately any significant restoration will be an expensive alternative to proposals from the community that support city programs, acknowledge the minimal historical significance of the building, and are appropriate for the creekside floodplain. Look more closely at those options.

Comments that the city is legally obligated to follow a restoration path are misleading and ignore the fact that the City Council can modify the city's historical registry with a majority vote.

Don't commit this quarter-of-a-million dollars today when that will likely be undone in the future. Wait until you get a consensus on the ultimate plan, or wait until you get the flood mitigation costs, at the very least. Otherwise, this money is untimely and likely wasted.

Thank you,

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- Curtis Cole



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