

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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,  
WHEELER, and MOISON

STAFF: Planning Services Manager KORNFIELD and Assistant Planner 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 January 14, 2015.

MOTION by Commissioner MEADOWS, seconded by Vice-Chair KIRIK, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015 regular meeting as amended by Chair BLOCKHUS to clarify the meeting adjournment by Vice-Chair KIRIK.

THE MOTION PASSED BY A 4/0/1 VOTE, WITH MOISON ABSTAINED.

**DISCUSSION**

**2. 14-SC-29 – S. Benzing Architect – 1251 S. Springer Road**

Design review for a two-story house. The project includes 2,121 square feet on the first story and 1,157 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Davis*

Assistant Planner DAVIS presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-29 subject to the findings and conditions.

Project architect Steve Benzing spoke in favor of the project and summarized the changes made to the plans. There was no other public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design changes. The Commission commended the applicant on their efforts responding to commissioner concerns.

MOTION by Commissioner WHEELER, seconded by Commissioner MOISON, to approve design review application 14-SC-29 per the staff report findings and conditions.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0).

**3. 14-SC-31 – Joma Studio Architect – 265 Pine Lane**

Design review for a first- and second story addition to a one-story house. The project includes an addition of 308 square feet on the first story and 326 square feet on the second story.

*Project Planner: Gallegos*

Planning Services Manager KORNFIELD presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-31 subject to the findings and conditions.

Project architect Antony Joma described the project and stated there was minimal trimming of the tree to accommodate the addition, when asked by Commissioner MEADOWS. There was no other public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design. Vice-Chair KIRIK commended the arborist's report as a clearly written and well-presented and useful document.

MOTION by Commissioner MOISON, seconded by Commissioner WHEELER, to approve design review application 14-SC-31 per the staff report findings and conditions.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0).

**4. 14-SC-38 – T. Gotham and K. Porterfield – 1675 Juarez Avenue**

Design review for a two-story house. The project includes 2,959 square feet on the first story and 786 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Davis*

Assistant Planner DAVIS presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-38 subject to the findings and conditions.

Property owner Todd Gotham described the changes, stated that the window on the side was for egress, and wanted narrow windows to maintain the design integrity. There was no other public comment.

The Commissioners discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design. The Commission commended the applicant on the revisions and that the design quality was improved, and suggested omitting condition No. 4. Vice-Chair KIRIK suggested that the applicant make the front windows wider for egress and use smaller windows on the side to improve the privacy.

MOTION by Commissioner MEADOWS, seconded by Commissioner MOISON, to approve design review application 14-SC-38 per the staff report findings and conditions, with the following change:

2. Remove Condition No. 4.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5/0).

**5. Notification Requirements**

Discussion of project notification requirements. *Project Planner: Kornfield*

Planning Services Manager KORNFIELD presented the staff report to provide a recommendation to the City Council on the notification requirements.

The Commissioners discussed the notification requirements and gave the following comments: increasing notice to 1,000 feet implies that the neighborhood context increases and that would be confusing and inconsistent with the Neighborhood Compatibility Worksheet; that it might create irrelevant input; that the broader notice invited comments from outside neighborhood context which could set unreasonable expectations to the public; the City could consider noticing all projects in the paper; support for larger notices (11x17) with an effective font and format; staff should define where the notice is posted; and suggested putting a web link or “QR” code on notice.

The Commission unanimously recommended maintaining the existing notification boundaries, using a larger format for the on-site postings and maintaining the notice wording.

### **COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner MOISON reported on the 178 Santa Rita Court appeal from the January 27, 2015 City Council meeting. She stated that the appeal was denied with a condition for a fixed window with translucent glass. Vice-Chair KIRIK suggested inviting the Council to attend a Design Review Commission meeting periodically. Chair BLOCKHUS stated that he had a meeting with Mayor PEPPER recently and that there seemed to be a disconnect between the Council’s impression of the Commission’s work and the Commission’s work.

### **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair BLOCKHUS adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM.

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David Kornfield  
Planning Services Manager