

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 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 MOISON, Commissioners BLOCKHUS and MEADOWS

ABSENT: Commissioner WHEELER

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 April 15, 2015.

MOTION by Vice-Chair MOISON, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 regular meeting as written. THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 3/0/1 VOTE, WITH COMMISSIONER BLOCKHUS ABSTAINED.

DISCUSSION

2. **15-SC-10 – S. Stotler – 1075 Golden Way**
Design review for a new, two-story house. The project includes 2,506 square feet on the first story and 1,267 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Gallegos*

Assistant Planner GALLEGOS presented the staff report recommending continuance of design review application 15-SC-10 subject to the findings and recommended direction.

Project architect Scott Stotler stated that the design complies with the setbacks, that the daylight plane was difficult to meet, and presented a revised front building elevation that lowered the roof pitches of the front gables to 5:12. Property owners Richard and Maria Tsoi noted that the arborist report noted that the Cedar tree was hazardous and that limbs had fallen in the past. Arborist Kevin Kelty stated that the Camphor trees stick out into the right-of-way and are poorly maintained and in decline and the Cedar has poor form with a high chance of limb failure. He said that he updated the arborist report in April of this year and the other trees were missing from the report because they were too small to list.

Neighbors and Los Altos residents Julie Rockhold, Tabitha Hanson, Peter Doyle, Nicole Emens, Calvin Chai, Debbie Longo, Annick Mohages, Nicole Snedigar, Charissa Gering, and Scott Leaver spoke in support of the project design and tree removals. There was no other public comment.

Two Commissioners gave their general support for the project and tree removals. Two Commissioners expressed concern about the project fitting into the neighborhood character and discussed ways to minimize its bulk. Chair KIRIK acknowledged for the record a letter received after the report publication recommending to keep the tree.

MOTION Commissioner MEADOWS, seconded by Vice-Chair MOISON, to approve design review application 15-SC-10 per the revised plan.

THE MOTION FAILED BY A 2/2 VOTE, WITH BLOCKHUS AND KIRIK OPPOSED.

MOTION by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Chair KIRIK to approve design review application 15-SC-10 per the staff report findings and conditions, with the following additional conditions:

- Reduce the sill plate heights to reduce mass and bulk of the front elevation; and
- Reduce garage bulk by modifying the gable roof to a hip roof.

Commissioner BLOCKHUS amended the motion, seconded by Chair KIRIK, to:

- Allow removal of trees 1, 2, 3, and 6 per the landscape plan; and
- Lower the second story plate height to eight feet and first story plate to nine feet.

Chair KIRIK asked the applicant if they were in agreement with the changes. Project designer Scott Stotler responded that the revision provided on the dais lowered the garage ridge 10 to 11 inches and he wanted to keep the gable versus modifying it to a hip roof; and also agreed that they could lower the wall plate of the garage element.

It was then moved by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Vice-Chair MOISON, to add an architectural element to reduce the garage bulk. Commissioner BLOCKHUS withdrew his motions to restate them.

MOTION by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Vice-Chair MOISON, to approve design review application 15-SC-10 per the staff report findings and conditions, with the following additional conditions:

- Remove trees 1, 2, 3, and 6 per the landscape plan;
- Incorporate an architectural feature on the garage, such as a trellis; and
- Lower the second story plate height to eight feet and first story plate to nine feet.

THE MOTION PASSED BY A 3/1 VOTE, WITH MEADOWS OPPOSED.

3. 15-SC-11 – D.P. Finnigan – 1042 Eastwood Drive

Design review for a new, two-story house. The project includes 3,233 square feet at the first-story and 819 square feet at the second-story. *Project Planner: Davis*

Assistant Planner DAVIS presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 15-SC-11 subject to the listed findings and conditions.

Project designer Patrick Finnigan provided some historic context in design, stated that all the windows were recessed, used a true cap and pan barrel tile roof, and integrated color stucco, and clarified that the design did not use gable vents.

The Commissioners discussed the project and gave their general support. The Commission discussion included the site planning, the character of the tower element, the relationship of the design to a nearby structure, the buffering landscape plan, the ability to mass the project toward the other side of the lot and the integrity of the design.

MOTION by Commissioner BLOCKHUS, seconded by Vice-Chair MOISON to approve design review application 15-SC-11 per the staff recommendation.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4/0).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner BLOCKHUS noted the effectiveness of the new, larger property postings.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair KIRIK adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM.

David Kornfield
Planning Services Manager