

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021 BEGINNING AT 7:03
P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS,
CALIFORNIA**

Please Note: Per California Executive Order N-29-20, the Commissions will meet via teleconference only. Members of the Public may call (650) 242-4929 to participate in the conference call (Meeting ID: 149 916 8523 or via the web at <https://tinyurl.com/e3txw2uu>). Members of the Public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Commission Chair and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit written testimony prior to the meeting at DesignReviewCommission@losaltosca.gov or Planning@losaltosca.gov. Emails received prior to the meeting will be included in the public record.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair Ma, Vice-Chair Bishop, Commissioners Blockhus, Kirik, and Harding

STAFF: Planning Services Manager Persicone, Senior Planner Golden, and Associate Planner Gallegos

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

SPECIAL ITEM

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

This item was continued from the May 19, 2021 DRC Meeting.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Harding, seconded by Commissioner Kirik, the Commission voted to elect Vice-Chair Bishop to the new Chair

The motion was approved (4-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Blockhus, Harding, Kirik, and Ma

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: Bishop

Chair Bishop took over the virtual gavel for the rest of the meeting.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Harding, seconded by Commissioner Kirik, the Commission voted to elect Commissioner Blockhus as the new Vice-Chair.

The motion was approved (4-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Bishop Harding, Kirik, and Ma

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: Blockhus

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Design Review Commission Minutes

Approve minutes of the regular meeting of May 19, 2021.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Harding, seconded by Commissioner Ma, the Commission approved the minutes from the May 19, 2021 regular meeting as written.

The motion was approved (5-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Bishop, Blockhus, Harding, Kirik, and Ma

NOES: None

DISCUSSION

3. **SC20-0006 – Shilpa Narwade – 1720 Parkhills Avenue**

Design review for an addition to the first and second stories to an existing two-story residence. The project includes adding 188 square feet at the first story and 619 square feet to the second story.

Project Planner: Golden

Senior Planner Golden presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application SC20-0006 subject to the listed findings and conditions and answered Commissioner questions.

Gautam Golwala and Shilpa Narwade, the property owners requested approval of the project for her expanded family.

The project architect, Chris Spaulding, gave a brief overview of the project and talked about privacy impact mitigations made.

Public Comment

None.

Chair Bishop closed the Public Comment section of the meeting and Commission discussion then proceeded.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Harding, seconded by Vice-Chair Blockhus, the Commission approved design review application SC20-0006 subject to the staff report findings and conditions.

The motion was approved (5-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Bishop, Blockhus, Harding, Kirik, and Ma

NOES: None

4. **SC21-0003 – Abbie Bourgan – 851 Manor Way**

Design review for a new two-story house. The project includes 2,503 square feet on the first story and 1,231 square feet on the second story. *Project Planner: Gallegos*

Associate Planner Gallegos presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application SC21-0003 subject to the listed findings and conditions and answered Commission questions. He confirmed the second story setback error of 17 feet, 1-inch and not the required 17 feet, 5-inches. He then suggested the DRC to add a condition to meet the required second story setback.

Property owner and applicant, Abbie Bourgan, gave a presentation of the project and answered Commissioner questions. He said the non-conforming second story setback was an oversight.

Public Comment

Neighbor Shigar Raji of 857 Manor Way spoke in support of the project.

Neighbor Raju Joshi of 857 Manor Way, asked a question about the fence being replaced as part of the project.

Abby Abrens, spoke in support of the project architect and expressed her support for the design of the new home.

During the deliberation, Commissioner Kirik recused himself from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

Chair Bishop closed the Public Comment section of the meeting and Commission discussion then proceeded.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice-Chair Blockhus, seconded by Commissioner Ma, the Commission approved design review application SC21-0003 subject to the staff report findings and conditions, with the following additional condition and modifications:

- The second-floor addition shall be setback 17 feet, 5-inches per the Los Altos Municipal Code, not the 17 feet, 1-inch shown on the plans;
- Remove condition #4; and
- Replace the tree removals in condition #6 with sufficient privacy screening to be installed along the property line as approved by the Los Altos Planning Division.

The motion was approved (4-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Bishop, Blockhus, Harding, and Ma

NOES: None

RECUSED: Kirik

5. **SC21-0004 – Bahi Oreizy – 444 Fir Lane**

Design review for a two-story addition to an existing one-story house. The project includes a 794 square-foot addition on the first story and a 396 square-foot addition on the second story. *Project Planner: Gallegos*

Associate Planner Gallegos presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application SC21-004 subject to the listed findings and conditions.

Project architect and applicant, Bahi Oreizy, gave a brief overview of the project.

Property owner, Mark Charon, spoke in favor of the project and stated the outreach efforts he made with his neighbors.

Public Comment

Neighbor Mitch Day of 466 Fir Lane spoke about the project and concerns with the windows that face his property and noted that the property owner offered to allow him onto the property during construction to address any privacy concerns.

Chair Bishop closed the Public Comment section of the meeting and Commission discussion then proceeded.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Ma, seconded by Commissioner Harding, the Commission approved design review application SC21-0004 subject to the staff report findings and conditions, and with the following additional condition:

- That the privacy concerns of an abutting neighbor (Mr. Santos) be addressed prior to final inspection of the property.

The motion was then withdrawn.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice-Chair Blockhus, seconded by Commissioner Harding, the Commission approved design review application SC21-0004 subject to the staff report findings and conditions.

The motion was approved (5-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Bishop, Blockhus, Harding, Kirik, and Ma

NOES: None

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Planning Services Manager Persicone went over the agenda items for upcoming meetings.

There was also discussion about the preference of getting hard copies of the project plans again to pick up from the Police Department. The Commissioners commented on and discussed the issues with the project site visits and making appointments to do so with the applicant. Finally, the Commission discussed the new DRC property posting guidelines that Planning Services Manager Persicone has updated the requirements for.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bishop adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Guido Persicone, AICP
Planning Services Manager