

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021, BEGINNING AT 7:09 P.M. HELD VIA VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE PER EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20**

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: 144 754 1922 or via the web at <https://tinyurl.com/ykuxtae6>). 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](mailto:DesignReviewCommission@losaltosca.gov) or [Planning@losaltosca.gov](mailto:Planning@losaltosca.gov). Emails received prior to the meeting will be included in the public record.

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

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

STAFF: Planning Services Manager Persicone and Associate Planner Gallegos

**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 August 4, 2021.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Harding, seconded by Commissioner Ma, the Commission approved the minutes of the regular meeting of August 4, 2021 as written.

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

AYES: Bishop, Blockhus, Harding Kirik and Ma

NOES: None

**DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Kirik recused himself from agenda item #2 because he lives within 500 feet of the project site.

**2. SC19-0016 – Sierra Schmitt – 41 Marvin Avenue**

Design review for a new two-story house with a basement. The project includes 1982 square feet at the first story and 1,464 square feet at the second story, and a 1,767 square-foot basement. The proposed project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities). *Project Planner: Gallegos* ***This item was continued from the August 4, 2021 DRC meeting to a date certain and Adjourned from the September 15, 2021 DRC meeting.***

Associate Planner Gallegos presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application SC19-0016 subject to the staff report findings and conditions.

Vice-Chair Blockhus had a conversation with the property owner regarding City street lighting.

Commissioner Ma stated he had ex parte communication with the property owner and a phone conversation with a neighbor prior to the August 4, 2021 DRC meeting.

Commissioner Harding had asked the property owner to visit the site prior to the August 4, 2021 DRC meeting.

Associate Planner Gallegos then answered Commissioner questions.

Property owner Hetal Pandya introduced the project, gave some background of the Planning process, and said they want to be good neighbors.

Project architect Eugene Sakai, from Studio S Squared Architects, provided a project presentation and went over the changes that were made from the Commission's direction. He then answered Commissioner questions.

#### Public Comment

Brian Sherer of 24 Marvin Avenue spoke in opposition to the project.

Naveen Agarwal of 50 Marvin Avenue spoke in opposition to the project.

Resident Tom Burns spoke in support of the project.

Michael Berner of 132 Hawthorne Avenue spoke in support of the project.

Jessica Agarwal of 50 Marvin Avenue spoke in opposition to the project.

Jon Baer of 55 Pepper Drive spoke in opposition to the project.

Chris Kasso of 90 Marvin Avenue spoke in opposition to the project.

Resident Patricia Foerster spoke in support of the project.

Suzanne Kasso of 90 Marvin Avenue spoke in opposition to the project.

William Somers of 250 Marvin Avenue spoke in support of the project.

Gretchen Swall of 108 Marvin Avenue spoke in opposition to the project.

Chair Bishop gave the applicant the opportunity for a rebuttal to public comments.

Property owner Hetal Pandya provided a rebuttal stating she has listened and considered all her neighbors input and letters, feels they have made many changes in response, and the design fits in the diverse character neighborhood according to the Residential Design Guidelines.

Chair Bishop closed the public comment section of the meeting and Commission discussion then proceeded.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Ma, seconded by Vice-Chair Blockhus, the Commission continued application SC19-0016 at 41 Marvin Avenue to a date uncertain to further refine the design based on the August 4, 2021 meeting and with the following direction with the intent to reduce the overall bulk

and mass of the house to be more compatible with the neighborhood:

1. Reduce the size of the second story deck by making it no more than a maximum of six feet in depth;
2. Reduce the wall plate heights by 6-12 inches;
3. Reduce the visual impact of the garage by raising the plate height by one foot and direct staff to identify further ways to achieve this objective;
4. Reduce the roof overhang to ensure compatibility with the neighborhood;
5. Reduce the size of the tall second floor windows; and
6. Make the roof pitches better integrate into the neighborhood.

The motion was approved (3-1) by the following vote:

AYES: Bishop, Blockhus and Ma

NOES: Harding

RECUSED: Kirik

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Vice-Chair Blockhus asked how the DRC will handle SB9 and SB10 laws that the state just passed.

Vice Mayor Enander commented on potential objective standards that would be applied and will still conform with the new legislation that was passed.

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **3. November 2, 2021 Annual Meeting with the City Council**

Planning Services Manager Persicone went over the big topics that will be highlighted at the meeting.

### **4. Meeting Format**

Planning Services Manager Persicone stated that the City Council voted to continue the virtual meeting format and review every 30 days to make a proclamation to continue doing virtual meetings starting on October 12, 2021.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bishop adjourned the meeting at 10:34 PM.

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Guido Persicone, AICP  
Planning Services Manager