



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

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Monday, August 25, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.  
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers  
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair AHMADJIAN-BAER called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

### ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present: Chair AHMADJIAN-BAER, Vice-Chair CHAPMAN and Commissioners BAKER, BISHOP, MARFATIA and WELSH  
Absent: Commissioner MABE  
Staff: Staff Liaison GALLEGOS and Senior Planner DAHL

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Commission Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner BISHOP, seconded by Commissioner Vice-Chair CHAPMAN, to approve the April 28, 2014 meeting minutes.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. 14-H-04 – R. Mowat Associates – 452 University Avenue

Consideration of a Historic Alteration Permit for a new detached garage, rear yard improvements and alterations on the rear elevation of a historic landmark property.

Senior Planner DAHL presented the staff report and recommended approval.

Resident Rony Van Kyle spoke and expressed support for the project.

The Commission discussed the project, with a majority expressing support for the project. The Commission expressed concern about the ornateness of the wrought railing, noting that it should be simplified. The Commission also discussed the existing detached garage, noting that it was constructed at the same as the house and inquired if it should be considered a historic structure.

MOTION by Vice-Chair CHAPMAN, seconded by Commissioner WELSH, to recommend approval of Historic Alteration Permit Application 14-H-04 to the Design Review Commission subject to the listed findings and conditions, with the following additional recommendations:

- The garage was not a historic structure and demolition shall be permitted; and

- Architectural details of the new wrought iron railing shall be brought back to the Historic Commission for review prior to issuance of a building permit for the project.

MOTION TO AMEND by Commissioner MARFATIA, seconded by Commissioner WELSH, to include the following recommendation:

- Commission supports retaining the rear interior wall in the foyer per project historian recommendation; however, the final design shall be at the discretion of the owner.

THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED 5-1 VOTE, WITH COMMISSIONER BISHOP OPPOSED.

Commissioner BISHOP noted that his opposition was based on the demolition of the detached garage, which was a potentially historic structure.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### 3. Historic Plaque Program

Staff Liaison DAHL reported that the first phase of the Historic Plaque Program was almost complete and plaques were installed on most of the City's Historic Landmark structures. The Commission discussed the process for implementing the Historic Plaque Program and installation of the plaques on the Historic Resource properties.

MOTION by Commissioner BAKER, seconded by Commissioner BISHOP, to recommend the City Council allocate funds for the ten plaques per year until plaques have been installed on all Historic Resource properties.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 4. Margaret Thompson Essay Contest

Commissioner WELSH provided an update on the status of the Margaret Thompson Essay Contest.

#### 5. History Museum Communication

Staff Liaison DAHL provided follow-up on joint meeting with the Los Altos History Museum and inquired if the Commission wished to provide direction on a meeting date for the joint meeting. The Commission discussed scheduling the joint meeting with the Los Altos History Museum.

#### 6. Monthly Staff Report

Staff Liaison DAHL introduced Assistant Planner GALLEGOS as the next staff liaison, and discussed the possibility of a Study Session from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm at the next meeting, September 22, 2014, for Historical Review.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

None

**POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair AHMADJIAN-BAER adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM

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Sean K. Gallegos, Assistant Planner  
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission