

Jon Biggs

From: Julie Rose <julie@losaltoschamber.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Jon Biggs; dkornfield@lsoaltosca.gov; sally.meadows.massey@gmail.com
Cc: Jeff Morris
Subject: Chamber Supports 400 Main Use Permit Application

The Los Altos Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted today in support of the use permit application for office use for the vacant space at 400 Main Street submitted by Jeff Morris. This retail-zoned space has been vacant since the building was completed in 2014. It is evident that the space is not well suited for retail due to its location, lack of foot traffic and visibility.

We believe that allowing the Heising-Simons Foundation use of the space for administrative offices would be beneficial to all concerned. The family foundation is a very valuable community partner. Numerous local and regional non-profit organizations have and will continue to benefit if the foundation is able to carry on and expand its good work in Los Altos.

Having this vacant space finally occupied will add vibrancy and value to downtown Los Altos. We strongly urge the Planning and Transportation Commission to approve the application at its October 19 meeting,

Julie Rose, President
Los Altos Chamber of Commerce
321 University Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94022
650.948.1455
<http://www.losaltoschamber.org>



October 18, 2017

Planning and Transportation Committee
City of Los Altos
One North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Members of the Planning & Transportation Commission:

We wish to thank you for the time and consideration, today, of Jeff Morris' application for a use permit for a proposed administrative office for the Heising-Simons Foundation in the vacant space on the ground level of the 400 Main Street building.

We apologize that we are not able to be here in person to support Mr. Morris' application, but wish to share these thoughts for consideration.

I know we speak for the entire staff of the Heising-Simons Foundation when we say how much we appreciate being part of this community. We have enjoyed building relationships in Los Altos—be it through Chamber of Commerce functions; through a relationship with the Los Altos Community Foundation; and through the daily interactions of being part of a vibrant downtown where our staff enjoy the restaurants and commerce.

The Heising-Simons Foundation is a growing foundation. Since its first grant in 2007, the Foundation has awarded more than \$263 million, most recently awarding more than \$54 million last year, and being well on our way to exceed that amount for the current year. Our support to nonprofits aims to unlock knowledge, opportunity, and possibilities in the areas of early childhood education, science, climate and clean energy, human rights, and local opportunities. This reflects our fundamentally optimistic view of the world, and our belief in the potential for improvement in the human condition. We feel incredibly fortunate to be able to fund thoughtful leaders and passionate nonprofits, and to have resources to support a quest for greater understanding and improvement to social and environmental problems. And we feel privileged to do this in, and be part of, Los Altos.

The Foundation currently has a staff of 30 people—with three new job openings posted this month—and resides on the second floor of 400 Main Street, in suite 200. As we continue to grow, we recognize that we will be limited in desk and meeting space in our beautiful offices in the coming years. Jeff Morris has been the most professional and supportive of landlords, and our space is one we do not wish to vacate. Thus, the prospect of being able to also use an adjacent space—one that greets us each morning as we climb the stairs to our office, and one that has been vacant for the entirety of our tenancy—is indeed a thrilling one.

The Foundation has increasingly become a destination for meetings with our peers, our grantees, and with issue experts brought in to advise us. We regularly hear how they appreciate coming to visit Los Altos, and the expanded space will not only allow our staff to grow but also enable us to continue this practice.

We wish to publicly thank you for this consideration, and to thank Mr. Morris for the strong role he plays in helping this community continue to be one in which we so enjoy participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deanna Gomby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Deanna Gomby
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Malloy". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most legible part.

Jeff Malloy
Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Eule". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most legible part.

Brian Eule
Director of Communications and Corporate Secretary