

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION
AND THE HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M., REMOTELY, WITH ACCESS VIA RING
CENTRAL WEBINAR**

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

PRESENT: Vice Chair Spielman, Commissioners Dailey, Weinberg, and Morris

LATE: Commissioner Yeh, who communicated plans to Staff

ABSENT: Chair Lindermeier

RECUSED: Commissioner Corrigan, due to proximity of his residence to Halsey House

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Lang, Vice Chair Bartlett, Commissioners Moore and Bai

ABSENT: Commissioners Horn and Zoufonoun

RECUSED: Commissioner Trapnell, due to proximity of her residence to Halsey House

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Halsey House and Redwood Grove
Receive informational report on the status of Halsey House and Redwood Grove

The presentation was a joint effort by:

Donna Legge (Parks & Recreation Commission Liaison *and* City of Los Altos Recreation & Community Services Director),

Sean Gallegos (Historical Commission Liaison *and* City of Los Altos Associate Planner),

Aida Freeman (City of Los Altos Engineering Services Manager), and

Jeff Labowsky (Aidlin Darling Design), with assistance from

Jon Biggs (City of Los Altos Community Development Director),

Manny Hernandez (City of Los Altos Municipal Services Director), and

Dr Elizabeth Ward (Los Altos History Museum Executive Director).

COMMISSIONER YEH JOINED THE MEETING AT 8:10 P.M.

Public Comment: [Historical Commissioner] Nomi Trapnell spoke as member of the public (a Los Altos resident). She expressed that preservation of Halsey House's historical assets should be a priority. She highlighted the work done by the Friends of Halsey House, made up of residents of Los Altos.

Resident Jon Baer voiced his objections to the amounts he had heard cited for restoration, upkeep, and demolition, believing them to be inflated and provocative. He talked about updating a study regarding potential for programming and the responsibilities regarding a city structure.

Resident Gary Hedden spoke to articulate a brief historical perspective of the landmark status of Halsey House. He articulated that the great deterioration of Halsey House does not allow for full restoration of the property, but he looks forward to the design that Aidlin Darling Design creates.

[Parks & Recreation Commissioner] John Corrigan observed that additional revenue for / from the site would be helpful in funding its perpetual upkeep. He imagined small, private, adult fundraising events.

Action: No formal action taken.

Recommendations for future actions:

- 1) Historical Commission Chair Lang will look into landmark and Department of Interior requirements;
- 2) Staff (Recreation & Community Services Director Donna Legge) will prepare a brief proposal of the programming use for Halsey House and/or the expanded use of Redwood Grove;
- 3) Staff (Municipal Services Director Manny Hernandez) will continue basic maintenance of Halsey House;
- 4) Aidlin Darling Design will move forward with stakeholder interviews, information gathering, and preparing a preliminary design;
- 5) Group consideration of how to use some or all of the Halsey House structure in the future; and
- 6) Both the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Historical Commission should proceed promptly with recommendations to City Council, as the subject of Halsey House has languished too long and degradation of the building has increased significantly in recent years.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Spielman and Chair Lang adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.