

Los Altos Hills
Environmental Design and Protection Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10, 2023, at 5:45 p.m.

Location: by Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members: Peter Brown (chair), Hajime Murakami (vice-chair), Elizabeth Loinaz (secretary), Carol Gottlieb, Vijay Chawla, Grace Tsang

Associate Members: Kjell Karlsson

City Council Liaison: Councilmember Kavita Tankha

Guests: Senior Planner Elaine Ling

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 5:49pm

- a. Members Present: Peter Brown, Hajime Murakami, Carol Gottlieb, Vijay Chawla, Grace Tsang, Elizabeth Loinaz
- b. Guests Present: Elaine Ling (Senior Planner)

2. Presentations from the Floor

- a. Peter: There was an article in the Los Altos Town Crier featuring Gary Hedden as the Los Altos of the Year. Among his many projects is the 500 Trees Campaign, an ongoing program to plant 500 trees in the area.
- b. There will be a Special City Council Meeting on Jan 11, 4pm, to review committee accomplishments for 2022 and goals for 2023.

3. Future Committee Dates of Interest & Assignments

- a. EDPC Committee: February 14, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.
Vijay moved to change the Feb 14 meeting start time to 4pm, Peter seconded.
Yeas: Peter, Haj, Carol, Vijay, Grace, Elizabeth. Motion passed.
- b. City Council Meeting: January 19, 2023, 6:00 pm
- c. Planning Commission: February 2, 2023, 6:00 pm
- d. Field Trips: Friday mornings, Vijay to coordinate
- e. Fast Track/Site Development Meetings: Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am

4. Old Business

- a. Native Plant Garden
 - We developed a preliminary site plan and are in the process of gathering information on installation costs and resources.
 - With the recent rains, we had the chance to observe the current storm drainage at the Native Garden and identified drainage issues and opportunities.
 - Second Saturdays at the Native Plant Garden and Heritage House Orchard -- next event on Jan 14 will focus on ground squirrel management using sandbags and other methods.

b. Water Conservation

Stormwater drainage is an important issue that may need to be brought to the City Council level. This may be folded in as part of the Water Conservation discussion.

c. Wildlife Corridors/Fence Ordinance

No new information.

d. Signage for the Heritage Trees in Byrne Preserve

Carol to follow up with Deborah.

e. City Council changes to Standing Committees Resolution, Code of Conduct for Standing Committees, and new Conflict of Interest Designations

f. Use of native plants for landscaping

- Draft document to be reviewed by committee members, further researched and comments provided to Peter.
- The Town should decrease the Development Area credit for Artificial Turf

5. New Business

a. Approval of November 8, 2022 EDC Meeting Minutes

Vijay moved to approve, Carol seconded. Yeas: Peter, Haj, Carol, Vijay, Grace, Elizabeth. Motion passed.

b. Definition of Creeks, Ridgelines and Hilltops

- Will consider as 2 separate items--the definition of creeks and the definition of ridgelines and hilltops.

Ridges and Hilltops

- The goal is to minimize disruptions to the profile of ridgelines and hilltops. Single story structures and structures that step down in the landscape are preferred. Structures that step up (i.e. go above the highest point of land) are discouraged. In recent permit applications we have been seeing applications for larger second story portions.
- If we have a map of ridgelines and hilltops, it would be easier for staff to determine the homes for which this policy would apply.
- Elaine: The City of Saratoga adopted an official Ridgeline Map; its ridge areas are protected. A ridge is defined as sloped on both sides.
- Carol will take on the project to map Ridgelines and Hilltops in LAH. She will work with Elaine.

Swale vs. Creek

- Elaine: A creek may be hard to define. There may be natural watercourses that are headwater areas of a creek, before it is considered a creek.
- February 2 – Planning Commission Special Study. Valley Water Staff will determine what is a creek.
- Eco Atlas is a good resource.

6. Review of Field Trip Reports

- a. November 11, 2022
 - 13109 Byrd Lane – Landscape Screening
 - 26929 Almaden Court – Addition
 - 26851 Estacada Drive – Pool, Addition
 - 27772 Lupine Road - Pool
- b. December 9, 2022
 - 25700 Bassett Lane – New Residence
 - 25900 Springhill Drive – Landscape Screening
- c. December 23, 2022
 - 13867 Robleda Road – New Residence
 - 25091 Tepa Way – New Residence
 - 26481 Purissima Road – Addition and Remodel

7. Review of Site Development and Fast Tracks

- a. November 15, 2022
 - 27474 Sunrise Farm – Landscape Screening -- Approved
 - 26481 Purissima Road – New Sports Court, Artificial turf -- Approved
- b. November 22, 2022 - Cancelled
- c. November 29, 2022 - Cancelled
- d. December 6, 2022 – Cancelled
- e. December 13
 - 27983 Central Drive – Landscape Screening - Approved
 - 24160 Dawnridge Drive – Landscape Screening - Approved
 - 27772 Lupine Road – New Pool - Approved
- f. December 20, 2022 – Cancelled
- g. December 27, 2022 – Cancelled
- h. January 3, 2023 – Cancelled
- i. January 10, 2023

8. Planning Commission Meeting Report

- a. December 1, 2022
 - 2350 Old Page Mill Road – Conditional Use Permit - Approved
 - 27400 Purissima Road - Conditional Use Permit - Approved
 - 25788 Bassett Lane – Landscape Screening - Approved
 - 25600 Frampton Court – New Pool - Approved
- b. January 5 – Cancelled

9. City Council Meeting Report – November 17, 2022 & December 15, 2022

Carol was recognized with a Lifetime Volunteer Award in the December 15 Council Meeting.

10. Adjournment—8:29pm

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Design and Protection Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the City Clerk's office located at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, California during normal business hours.