

**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023**

Call to Order

- Richard Contreras called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Members present: George Clifford, Wendie Ward, Peter Brown, Jean Struthers, Kit Gordon, Anita Baldwin, Richard Contreras. Vicky Mokkarala arrived 9:21. Also present: the Hon. Lisa Schmidt

Minutes

- PB moved and WW seconded the revised March 8, 2023 OSC minutes as amended, motion passed unanimously, except for RC who abstained.

Announcements

- KG mentioned the Manresa Trail restoration event 4/20. JS spoke of her work on parks over the years.
- Councilmember Schmidt described the current state of the town's housing element and the recent concerns brought up by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) which must be addressed in order for the Council's proposal to be approved. There is also a possibility that the Twin Oaks site could be used for a senior citizen facility.

Planning

Fast Track meeting recaps:

- April 11 (AB): 12805 Deer Creek Lane, Landscape screening for an approved residence. The site contains Deer Creek and an Open Space Easement to protect it. No issues.

New Business

- New committee webpage design: AB sent a letter to D. Padovan explaining her concerns. An Ad Hoc committee was formed with members AB, PB, and VM to continue to address the concerns.
- Proposed Resolution and Code of Conduct for Committees: KG being unable to attend, PB and AB attended and summarized the Committee Chairs

meeting held in late March with Councilmembers Lisa Schmidt and George Tyson. Concerns and comments included:

- a. A desire for the OSC to see the original Code of Conduct, and then to redline changes;
 - b. The concept that procedures, rather than rules, could point committees to the correct behavior and not stifle innovation;
 - c. A concern that the City Manager had the power to remove or veto agenda items; chairs suggested at the meeting that committees and the CM could work more closely to prevent conflicts on this;
 - d. The concern that one member could not serve on two committees;
 - e. Term limits for full members;
 - f. A change which would allow committee members to be permitted to call vendors if needed.
- 2023 SOD Blitz May 20-21: GC described the Sod Blitz and said he would send links to the OSC committee members on the meeting and information. Envelopes will be provided on May 20 at the town hall for collection of bay leaves for testing.

Continuing Business

- Committee comments on artificial turf: the current policy in town ought to be updated to more accurately describe artificial turf's impermeability. Discussion of drainage ability.
- Safety element updates: on hold while the Council completes work on the housing element.
- Monthly message from OSC in the "Weekly," put out by the City Manager: SOD will be discussed in the report.
- Native plant garden at Town Hall: JS got a grant from CNPS to help with the planting. PB discussed a screening hedge to be put near the fence, and removal of eucalyptus. CIP will be involved. It's more likely now that planting will take place in the fall.
- Pathways update: KG talked to the Superintendent of Public Works to discuss concerns about pathway upkeep and the need for native materials.

Open Discussion

- None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by RC at 10:38 am.

OSC/ab