

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Call to Order

- Call to order: members present: Peter Brown, George Clifford (joined at 9:10 am), Richard Contreras, Kit Gordon, Jean Struthers, Wendie Ward, Anita Baldwin. Absent: Viggie Mokkarala. Also present: Hon. L. Schmidt, Vijay Laxmi Shah, Environmental Design and Protection Committee, WooJae Kim, Public Works Director

Minutes

- PB moved and WW seconded the acceptance of OSC Meeting Minutes for Jan. 11, 2023, with one edit. Ayes: GC, RC, KG, JS, AB

Announcements

- March OSC meeting will be in person (no Zoom meeting)
- KG announced the resignation of Planning Director Mangalam
- KG introduced the new Public Works Director, WooJae Kim, and gave an overview of OSC goals. Items discussed: OSC stinkwort eradication, sewage overflow on Moody Road due to the storms, the preparation of an RFP for the preserves, and Matadero Creek stabilization and mitigation.

Planning

Planning site reviews:

13418 Carillo Lane (KG, GC) remodel & addition. The owner is adding a second story with minimal increase of the footprint. PB moved to adopt and GC seconded these recommendations. Ayes: RC, KG, JS, WW, AB.

OSC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Require an open space easement to the area between the house and Carillo Lane and La Cresta Road with a slope greater than 30%.
- Ask for removal of the two closely spaced eucalyptus trees inside the recommended open space easement.
- Add Condition of Approval (COA): Shall remove all Stinkwort plants (*Dittrichia graveolens*) from entire property and the road ROW by manual pulling or herbicide by Sept 1 of each year until final building approval.
- Within Open Space Easement install only California native plants with no permanent irrigation.

11545 Crestridge Drive (KG) landscaping. KG reported. WW moved to adopt and PB seconded the recommendations: Ayes: RC, GC, KG, JS, AB.

OSC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Recommend landscaping with native plants. Toyons (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) are especially suited for landscape screening at this locale. Replace Eastern Redbud with Western Redbud; plant native salvia and ceanothus rather than non-native species. See calscape.org for list of plants native to bay area.
- Within Open Space Easement install only California native plants with no permanent irrigation (Disable irrigation line 3 after trees are established). Calscape.org for list.

Fast Track meeting recaps:

- **January 17 (AB):**

25900 Springhill Drive. Landscape screening for an approved second story. Approved with conditions.

25215 La Loma Drive. remodel. No issues. Approved with conditions.

27790 Stirrup Way. new residence. No discussion, this item is due to be reviewed by the Planning Commission in early March due to neighbors concerns.

- **January 24 (JS, AB reporting)**

26100 Duval Way & 13781 Ciceroni Lane. Landscape screenings. OSC had no recommendations for them and both were approved with conditions.

- **January 31 (GC) - cancelled**

- **February 7 (WW)**

14160 Miranda Road. Addition & remodel. Postponed.

New Business

- Proposed change by EDPC regarding artificial turf: Vijay Laxmi Shah discussed the history of the town's position on artificial turf and explained the provisions of an updated document, made available during the meeting to

OSC, outlining EDPC's concerns. Artificial turf is considered an impervious surface by regulatory agencies, therefore our Town policy is not in compliance. Our Town's stormwater permit will be updated soon and policies will need to adhere. The next step is to write a memo requesting a repeal of the present policy and for the EDPC and the OSC to be co-authors on the draft document.

Continuing Business

- Invasive plant management information & education: the March Our Town newsletter will contain a version of OSC's information sheet on invasive plants. A full version of this is on the Town's OSC website.
- Safety Element Update – none at this time.
- Monthly message from OSC in City Manager's email – KG and JS working on a message about rodents.
- Native Plants for Landscape Screening – PB is working on a version which OSC has endorsed.
- Creek protection in Town: add CARI/EcoAtlas database to Town's GIS; Guidelines at Standards and Land Use Near Streams – KG and PB working on.
- Native plant garden at Town Hall PB reported on progress on paths and swales.

Adjournment by KG at 11:06 am.