

Los Altos Hills
Environmental Design and Protection Committee
Special Meeting Minutes

Date: February 14, 2023, at 4:00 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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call -- 4pm

- a. Members Present: Peter Brown, Hajime Murakami, Carol Gottlieb (until 5:54pm), Vijay Chawla (until 5:30pm), Grace Tsang, Elizabeth Loinaz
- b. City Council Liaison: Councilmember Kavita Tankha (until 6pm)
- c. Guests: City Manager Peter Pirnejad (until 4:45pm), Public Works Director Woo Jae Kim (until 6pm), Senior Planner Elaine Ling, Planning Commissioner Birgitta Indaco (until 5:30pm), Open Space Committee Member Jean Struthers (until 5:30pm)

2. Presentations from the Floor

None

3. Future Committee Dates of Interest & Assignments

- a. EDPC Committee: March 14, 2023 @ 5:45 p.m.
- b. City Council Meeting: February 16, 2023, 6:00 pm
- c. Planning Commission: March 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

Elizabeth gave a presentation on the Renovation Planning for the Native Plant Garden and Heritage House Orchard. Key items were addressing deferred maintenance, better use of the space through more planting areas, more sitting areas, more paths, and the demonstration of native plants and green storm infrastructure for water conservation, creek and watershed stewardship, and supporting local ecologies and biodiversity. Peter Brown discussed some preliminary cost estimates gathered for the project.

Peter Pirnejad requested that we coordinate with all the groups and parties that may be interested in or may be affected by the renovation project. He mentioned some Town projects and some other committees that may be interested.

Woojae Kim and his team would be able to offer support and guidance for the project.

Kavita expressed her support for the Project. She also mentioned presenting different options would make it easier for the City Council to decide on what would best serve our Town's needs.

b. Water Conservation

Items discussed for the Native Plant Garden above relate to water conservation: Rain gardens and other green infrastructure help to sink, slow and spread our local rainfall and recharge our local watersheds.

The WELO parcel water budget is another lever for promoting water conservation that is also being explored.

c. Wildlife Corridors/Fence Ordinance

No new information.

d. Signage for the Heritage Trees in Byrne Preserve

No new information.

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

Items in the draft document were discussed and feedback was given to refine the recommendations.

g. Definition of Creeks

No new information.

h. Definition of Ridgelines and Hilltops

No new information.

5. New Business

a. Approval of January 9, 2023 EDPC Meeting Minutes

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

b. Discuss a proposal for immediately stopping the 90% MDA discount for artificial turf.

A possible option would be to send a joint letter (EDPC and OSC) to City Council for a policy change. It is recommended is to speak to Peter P beforehand as the town staff have many demands on their time at the moment.

c. eTRAKiT

Peter and Vijay were given logins by Town Staff. They will schedule training sessions for

other committee members.

- d. EDPC Meeting Time and In-person meetings starting in March
The State of Emergency will be lifted and the Brown Act will be in full effect starting in March. All public committee meetings will be held in person. All voting members must attend in person; non-voting parties are allowed to attend via Zoom.

Meeting time:

Haj made a motion for the schedule of the March EDPC committee meeting--
5pm on the 2nd Tuesday, March 14, at a Town Hall Council Chamber Meeting Rm. Grace seconded. Yeas: Peter, Haj, Grace, Elizabeth. Motion passed.

6. Review of Field Trip Reports

- a. January 13, 2023
- 13418 Carillo Lane – Addition
 - 26080 Quail Lane – New residence and ADU
 - 12800 Alto Verde – New residence, ADU, SB9 Unit
- b. January 27, 2023
- 10842 W Loyola Dr – Landscape screening
 - 11545 Crestridge Dr
- c. February 10, 2023
- 25538 Hidden Springs Ct – Landscape and Fencing
 - 14735 Saltamontes Way – New Residence
 - 27772 Lupine Rd – Replace gate, New fence, outdoor kitchen, pool, hardscape, and landscape

7. Planning Commission Meeting Report - February 2, 2023

- a. Valley Water Presentation on Development near Creeks
b. 10701 Magdalena Ave. – New House – Postponed to a later date

8. Adjournment – 6:37pm

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.