



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m., Monday, January 28, 2008
Hillview Community Center, Room A
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER: Chair H. GIRDLEY called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair H. GIRDLEY, Commissioners DREWES, MARFATIA and LONEY.
Staff: Staff Liaison DAHL and Assistant Planner LACEY.

MINUTES:

Motion: DREWES/LONEY
Moved to adopt the November 26, 2007 meeting minutes.
PASSED: 4/0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Commissioner BAKER arrived.

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS:

232 Burke Road – Assistant Planner LACEY presented the staff report and made himself available to answer questions. The applicant spoke in favor of the project and made himself available to answer questions. The Commissioners expressed general support for the project, noting that there was very limited visibility of the second unit from the street.

Motion: BAKER/LONEY
Moved to approve the project as proposed.
PASSED: 4/0/1 (MARFATIA abstained)

Neutra House Fence – The applicant spoke in opposition to the concept of installing a fence between the Neutra House and the Community Foundation, noting that a fence was historically inconsistent with the structure, that there were three oak trees that already marked the boundary and that if a fence had to be installed, it should be designed to reduce visibility as much as possible, such as a low wrought iron fence.

The Commission took an intermission to visit the Neutra House site.

The Commissioners expressed strong opposition to building a fence between the Neutra House and the Community Foundation and questioned why it was being required. Commissioner BAKER noted that the fence would hurt the character of the Neutra House and felt that the City Council should reconsider the requirement of building a fence and instead look at alternatives such as landscaping. Commissioner DREWES and MARFATIA said that the fence was not consistent with

the time period or architectural design of the Neutra House. Overall, the Commissioners felt that the fence did not serve a functional purpose, was not historically consistent with the character of the house and that other alternatives should be considered.

Motion: MARFATIA/BAKER

Moved to recommend that staff provide alternative designs to demarcate the property line between the Neutra House and the Community Foundation that are historically appropriate and do not include a fence, and that the alternatives should be reviewed by the Commission.

PASSED: 5/0

Historic Resources Inventory Update – Staff Liaison DAHL presented the updated windshield survey of potential historic resources with dates of construction. The Commission discussed ways to reduce the list down to approximately 50 properties. The Commission noted that the structure at 129 Fremont was much older than the 1978 construction date and that the tank house at 148 Doud Drive was older than the 1950 construction date. Staff Liaison DAHL noted that the construction dates were obtained from property Assessor records and may not reflect original construction. The Commission noted that it would be most effective to take photographs of each potential historic resource and then evaluate them at a special meeting.

Motion: none

Historic Resources Inventory Score Modifications – The Commission discussed the need to establish a procedure that could be used to change/modify HRI scores on individual historic resources. Commissioners noted that it would be appropriate to further discuss the issue after a consultant has been selected to update the existing Historic Resources Inventory.

Motion: none

Potential Historic Districts in the City – Item tabled for future discussion.

Historic Preservation Ordinance Update – Item tabled for future discussion.

Review of 2007 – 2012 Capitol Improvement Program – The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft Capitol Improvement Plan Program project prioritization worksheet. Commissioners expressed the need to make sure that all improvement projects that involved or impacted historical resources be reviewed by the Commission. Staff Liaison DAHL noted that any projects that involved or impacted historical resources would be routed to the Commission for review as part of the City's permitting process.

Motion: none

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Essay Contest – Commissioner LONEY reported that the essay contest announcement had been printed and that 2,000 student copies and 100 teacher copies had been distributed to all schools with 4-6 grade classes. Essays will be due by March 4, 2008 and will be judged by the end of March. All Commissioners are encouraged to assist in the judging and an ice cream social to announce the essay contest winners is scheduled for May 8, 2008.

Certified Local Government 2007 Annual Report – Staff Liaison DAHL reported that the City's CLG 2007 Annual Report was submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation by the December 31, 2007 deadline.

DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Items to be added to February agenda:

1. New Chair Selection
2. Historic Resources Inventory Update
3. Certified Local Government Grants

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair GIRDLEY adjourned the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Zachary Dahl, AICP
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission