



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

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7:00 p.m., Monday, November 26, 2007  
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers  
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

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

### ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair H. GIRDLEY, Commissioners DREWES, K. GIRDLEY, MARFATIA  
HAMBLIN, BAKER and LONEY.  
Staff: Staff Liaison DAHL.

### MINUTES:

Commissioner K. GIRDLEY moved approval of the September 24, 2007 Minutes, seconded by Commissioner DREWES, motion passed 6-0 (LONEY Abstained).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS:

**233 West Edith Avenue** – The Commission considered property owner Ken Kasik's request to demolish a historically significant residence as part of a proposed three-lot land division. Mr. Kasik noted that the location of the house was constraining the ability to subdivide the property, the house was in poor structural condition and had a low HRI score and if the structure was re-evaluated, may not ever merit a score that qualified for the HRI. Three members of the public spoke in opposition to the demolition of the residence. The Commissioners spoke in general opposition to demolishing the structure, noting that while the property owner had a right to develop the land, the Commission was not in the business of approving the demolition of historic resources and suggested moving the structure as an option. Commissioner HAMBLIN noted that this was a beautiful example of Tudor architecture, that moving the structure was not a feasible option and that the Commission should act to preserve this historic resource by denying the application. Commissioner K. GIRDLEY suggested that since the structure could not be feasibly moved, a compromise would be a two-lot land division that preserved the structure in its current location.

Commissioner HAMBLIN moved to deny the tentative map application, which was seconded by Commissioner DREWES.

Motion failed 2-5 (H. GIRDLEY, K. GIRDLEY, MARFATIA, BAKER and LONEY opposed)

Commissioner K. GIRDLEY moved to deny the demolition request and instruct the owner to work with staff and the Planning Commission to maximize the development potential of the property while retaining the historically significant structure, which was seconded by Commissioner BAKER. Motion passed 6-1 (HAMBLIN opposed)

**399 Main Street** – The Commission reviewed the previously approved staff report and building permit records for the second story windows that were installed in 2004. The Commission noted that it was unfortunate that the windows that were installed were not more consistent with the original windows, but that there was nothing that could be done retroactively to address the issue since the records indicated that the building owner had followed all required rules and regulations.

Commissioner HAMBLIN moved to take no action on this item, which was seconded by Commissioner K. GIRDLEY.  
Motion passed 7-0

Commissioner DREWES moved to include documentation of the original windows, including their size and photographs, in the existing HRI file for the structure at 399 Main Street, which was seconded by Commissioner MARFATIA.  
Motion passed 7-0

**Green Building Regulations** – The Commission reviewed of the green building regulations that had been adopted by the City of Los Altos. The Commission expressed general support for the idea that the exemption criteria should include historically significant and historically important structures. Commissioner H. GIRDLEY noted that the burden of presenting evidence to exempt their historical resource shouldn't be solely on the applicant.

Commissioner BAKER moved to recommend the following modifications to Sec. 12.66.070:

- 1) Broaden the scope of the ordinance to include historically significant and historically important properties;
- 2) Allow all sources, including the applicant, members of the public and Historical Commissioners, to present evidence for granting an exception from these regulations;
- 3) Replace the requirement of presenting clear and convincing evidence with presenting reasonable evidence; and
- 4) Replace the phrase “harm the architectural and historical integrity” with “compromise the architectural and historical integrity,” which was seconded by Commissioner HAMBLIN.

Motion passed 7-0

**Historical Commission Review Process** – Staff Liaison DAHL presented a memorandum outlining the Commission's role and duties in the application review process. The Commission discussed timing of application review and their responsibility in maintaining the City's historical integrity.

**Los Altos History Museum Essay Contest** – Commissioner LONEY agreed to take the lead on organizing the Essay Contest, with Commissioners BAKER and H. GIRDLEY providing support.

**Historic Resources Inventory Update** – The Commission reviewed the windshield survey and structure built dates provided by Staff Liaison DAHL. Commissioner K. GIRDLEY suggested that a special meeting be scheduled for the Commission to fully review each property included in the windshield survey list. Commissioner MARFATIA presented additional properties to be added to the list of properties to be considered for addition to the HRI.

**Historical Project Funding** – Item tabled for future discussion.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**San Antonio Club Historic Sign Report** – Staff Liaison Dahl noted that the new overhead sign had been installed at the San Antonio Club and the free standing hanging sign had not yet been installed.

**DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Historic Preservation Ordinance Update** – Item to be added to January agenda for discussion regarding additions and modifications to the existing ordinance.

**Historic Resources Inventory Scores** – Item to be added to January agenda for discussion regarding modifications/updates of the existing HRI scores.

**Historic Districts in Los Altos** – Item to be added to the January Agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair H. GIRDLEY adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

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Zachary Dahl, AICP  
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission