



MINUTES HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Special Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, July 17, 2006
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair GIRDLEY called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair GIRDLEY, Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY, Commissioners BLAKE, DREWES, FOERSTER, HAMBLIN and SCHINK

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Consideration of the minutes from the June 26, 2006 Historical Commission meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner HAMBLIN and seconded by Commissioner DREWES to adopt the June 26, 2006 minutes.

The motion passed 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS:

1. **Neutra House:** Consideration of modifications to the interior of the Neutra House and the proposed landscape concepts.

King Lear, of the Community Foundation, and Mark Sandoval, architect, presented the proposed changes to the interior of the Neutra House and landscape concept. The interior changes include moving the kitchen to the rear room, removing the existing kitchen wall, make the existing bathroom ADA accessible and remove the fireplace. Mr. Lear also requested input on enclosing the side service porch. This is the only requested change to the exterior of the building. Mr. Sandoval discussed the proposed changes and indicated he supported the proposed interior changes but did not recommend the porch to be enclosed because it would change the historic context of the building.

The Commissioners discussed the interior changes. The Commissioners supported the overall concept. However, Commission Blake did not support removing the kitchen wall or moving the kitchen to the rear room. Several Commissioners wanted the fireplace retained. The Commission did not support enclosing the service porch. Vice-Chair Girdley asked if the built-in cabinets would replicate the original construction. Mr. Sandoval responded that it was there intention to replicate the original cabinets.

It was moved by Commissioner FOERSTER and seconded by Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY to support removal of the kitchen wall.

The motion passed 6-1 (Blake)

It was moved by Commissioner FOERSTER and seconded by Vice-Chair H. GIRDLEY to support moving the kitchen to the rear room and removing the closet.

The motion passed 6-1 (Blake).

It was moved by Commissioner FOERSTER and seconded by Commissioner HAMBLIN to support modifying the bathroom to make it ADA accessible.

The motion passed 7-0.

It was moved by Commissioner HAMBLIN and seconded by Commissioner BLAKE to recommend that the fireplace be replicated per the original plan allowing for necessary modifications by the architect to allow for the type of fuel, use of displays above the fireplace and safety requirement.

The motion passed 4-3 (K. Girdley, H. Girdley, Foerster).

It was moved by Commissioner HAMBLIN and seconded by Vice-Chair GIRDLEY to allow the service porch to be enclosed.

The motion failed 1-6 (K. Girdley, H. Girdely, Blake, Drewes, Foerster, Schink).

Mr. Lear then discussed the two landscape concepts that are being considered. The plans include Orchard trees in front of the home that extend beyond the perimeter of the home to the Hillview Community Center. The plans also include seatwalls, concrete patios in the front and rear and an entry sign. Mr. Lear said a species of tree for the orchard has not been determined.

Mr. Sandoval discussed several recommendations he had regarding the landscape concept. The recommendations are:

- The patio in the rear and front (adjacent to the carport) should be scored concrete to replicate the original setting of the home.
- The entry to the carport should be delineated (using benderboard, planting or other similar materials).
- The Orchard trees should be Prune trees and located to the extent possible per the original landscape plan.
- The seatwall should be redwood to relate the building and not have an institutional feel. Additionally, the seatwall, as shown in Concept #2, should not cross the property line to the Community Foundation building. Lastly, the planting around the seatwall should be located to allow accessibility.
- Light fixtures should complement the building and be low voltage. Any lighting attached to the building would replicate the original fixtures.
- Landscaping should be native, drought tolerant species.

Mr. Lear indicated he disagreed with requiring Prune trees and they prefer flexibility to select the tree type. He supported most of the Mr. Sandoval's comments and agrees with the idea of a native garden as an exhibit. Mr. Lear also requested that the Commission make a recommendation to the Council regarding allowing the Orchard to extend to the Community Center building.

It was moved by Commissioner FOERSTER and seconded by Commissioner DREWES to support both landscape concepts with the following recommendations:

- The patio in the rear and front (adjacent to the carport) should be scored concrete to replicate the original setting of the home.
- The entry to the carport should be delineated (using benderboard, planting or other similar materials).
- The Orchard trees should be Prune trees and located to the extent possible per the original landscape plan.
- The seatwall should be redwood to relate the building and not have an institutional feel. Additionally, the seatwall, as shown in Concept #2, should not cross the property line to the Community Foundation building. Lastly, the planting around the seatwall should be located to allow accessibility.
- Light fixtures should complement the building and be low voltage. Any lighting attached to the building would replicate the original fixtures.
- Landscaping should be native, drought tolerant species.
- The Commission supports extending the Orchard to the Community Center as shown in both landscape concepts.

The motion passed 6-1 (Hamblin)

CHAIR'S REPORT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair GIRDLEY adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Curtis Banks, AICP
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission