



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00 p.m. Monday, March 26, 2012
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair WELSH called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair WELSH, Commissioners AHMADJIAN-BAER, BAKER, BISHOP, CHAPMAN and MARFATIA.

Absent: Commissioner LONEY

Staff: Staff Liaison DAHL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Community Center Update

Mayor Val Carpenter provided the Commission with an update on the Community Center Master Plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Minutes from the February 27, 2012 regular Historical Commission meeting

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA, to approve Meeting Minutes as amended.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Historic Resources Inventory Update

Chair WELSH noted that each property would be discussed and acted upon individually.

a. 973 Dolores Avenue

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting that it had good physical integrity and appeared original to the Loyola Town Site development.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER

AHMADJIAN-BAER, to designate the property at 973 Dolores Avenue as a Historic Resource, per Section 12.44.040 of the Municipal Code, and add it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. 164 Doud Drive

The owner of the property spoke against designating the property as a historic resource, noting that it had multiple additions and did not retain sufficient physical integrity to merit a designation. The Commission discussed this property, noting that while it did retain its original form as a farm house, many of the elevations were substantially altered due to additions and remodels.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP, to not designate the property at 164 Doud Drive as a Historic Resource due to lack of physical integrity.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. 479 Los Altos Avenue

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting that it was a simple structure that did not have much architectural merit, but within orchard setting it contributed to the Los Altos historic context related to orchard development.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA, to designate the property at 479 Los Altos Avenue as a Historic Resource, per Section 12.44.040 of the Municipal Code, and add it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-1 (CHAPMAN OPPOSED)

d. 1284 Paula Court

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting that it was a unique structure and associated with the agricultural context, but that it did not have any character defining features.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to not designate the property at 1284 Paula Court as a Historic Resource due to lack of physical integrity and historic significance.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Historic Resources Inventory Update

Chair WELSH noted that each property would be discussed and acted upon individually, but noted that, per building permit records, four structures had been torn down and rebuilt, thus were no longer eligible for historic designation.

a. 448 Cherry Avenue

e. 165 Hawthorne Avenue

g. 368 Main Street

h. 490 Orange Avenue

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA, to remove the properties at 448 Cherry Avenue, 165 Hawthorne Avenue, 368 Main Street and 490 Orange Avenue from the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory and find that they are not Historic Resources due to the fact that the structures are not 50 years old.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. 290 Cuesta Drive

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting that while it did have additions, the form of the original structure was intact and that many of the windows and character defining features were still original. The Commission also noted that this was one of the original houses in this area of Los Altos

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to retain the Historic Resource designation on the property at 290 Cuesta Drive and keep it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. 253 Fremont Avenue

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting that the house appeared significantly altered and lacked any documented historical significance.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN, to remove the property at 253 Fremont Avenue from the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory and find that it is not a Historic Resource due to lack of integrity and historic significance.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. 60 South Gordon Way

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting the original structure did appear to retain its physical integrity and did have historic significance due to its association with the City's Residential Architecture Context.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to retain the Historic Resource designation on the property at 60 South Gordon Way and keep it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. 67 Lyell Street

The property owners spoke in favor of removing the property from the HRI, noting that the neighborhood setting was completely changed, that it was a small house on a large lot and that it does not retain its physical integrity. The Commission discussed this property, noting it was an original bungalow that was constructed at the beginning of City development. The Commission noted that the structure appeared to be in excellent condition and had a high degree of physical integrity.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP, to retain the Historic Resource designation on the property at 67 Lyell Street and keep it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.
THE MOTION CARRIED 5-1 (MARFATIA OPPOSED)

i. 580 Orange Avenue

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting while there was a second story addition, the original structure did appear to retain its physical integrity and did have historic significance due to its association with the Shoup Family and the City's Residential Architecture Context.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to retain the Historic Resource designation on the property at 580 Orange Avenue and keep it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

j. 275 Silvia Court

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting that much of the original structure did appear to retain its physical integrity and there appeared to be historic significance due to its association with some prominent early residents and its association with the City's Residential Architecture Context. The Commission noted that staff should work with the Museum to better understand the associations and significance of the property.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to retain the Historic Resource designation on the property at 275 Silvia Court and keep it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

k. 600 University Terrace

There were no public comments. The Commission discussed this property, noting that while there appeared to have been some window replacement and stucco repair, the form of the original structure was intact and did have historic significance due to its association with the City's Residential Architecture Context. The Commission noted that staff should work with the Museum to better understand the associations and significance of the property.

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AHMADJIAN-BAER, to retain the Historic Resource designation on the property at 600 University Terrace and keep it to the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Margaret Thompson Essay Contest

Chair WELSH reported that she was working on a draft manual for managing the essay contest and would provide it for Commission review at a later date. Overall, 638 student essays were submitted.

6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

MOTION BY CHAIR WELSH SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP, to nominate Commissioner MARFATIA as Chair.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MARFATIA SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP, to nominate Chair WELSH as Vice-Chair.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission discussed the upcoming joint meeting with Council. Chair WELSH requested that the Plaque Program be added to a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair WELSH adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM

Zachary Dahl, AICP
Staff Liaison to the Historical Commission