SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE Monday, June 24, 2013 Draft Summary Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Bickford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 420 Litho Street, Sausalito.

Present: Chair Mary Lee Bickford, Vice-Chair Betsy Elliott,

Committee Member Ellen Rosenstein, Committee Member Tom Wilhite

Absent: Committee Member Peter Montagne Staff: Administrative Analyst Lilly Schinsing

Approval of Agenda

The Committee agreed by consensus to hear Item 3 before Items 1 and 2. The motion passed 4-0.

Public Comments of Items Not on Agenda

None.

Approval of Minutes

May 13, 2013 May 30, 2013

Vice-Chair Elliott moved and Committee Member Rosenstein seconded a motion to approve the summary minutes. The motion passed 4-0.

Public Hearings

Associate Planner Schinsing informed the Committee that the Tree Owner for Item 3 was not yet in attendance.

The Committee agreed by consensus to hear all Items in the original order.

1. TRP 13-120, Tree Removal Permit, Stafford, 49 Cloudview Road. Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of one declining Camphor tree located in the rear of the site and one dying Magnolia tree near the front of the property at 49 Cloudview Road (APN 065-153-02).

The public hearing was opened.

Associate Planner Schinsing presented the Staff Report.

 Late mail correspondence was received from the Tree Owners, which has been given to the Committee.

Committee question to staff:

Given that the lot is so crowded with bushes, is staff recommending that the
owners replace the trees? Staff responded a Condition of Approval requires the
owners to plant replacement trees, which they plan to do. The Committee has
the discretion to not require replacement trees or to require only one instead of
two.

The public testimony period was opened.

The public did not make comments.

The public testimony period was closed.

Committee comments:

- The two subject trees are obviously dying and not contributing anything to the site.
- The site is small. Replacement trees, if required, are liable to become view issues in the future. The requirement to plant 24-inch box trees should be waived and leave it to the owners as to whether they want to replace the removed trees.

Amended Condition of Approval:

 The requirement to plant two 24-inch box trees as replacement trees shall be waived. The decision regarding the kind of replacement trees shall be at the applicant's discretion.

Vice-Chair Elliott moved and Committee Member Rosenstein seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 49 Cloudview Road subject to the amended Condition of Approval. The motion passed 3-1 (No-Wilhite.)

The public hearing was closed.

2. TRP 13-127, Tree Removal Permit, Smiley, 504 Turney Street. Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of one English Walnut tree located in the rear of the site at 504 Turney Street (APN 065-081-10).

The public hearing was opened.

Associate Planner Schinsing presented the Staff Report.

The public testimony period was opened.

The public did not make comments.

The public testimony period was closed.

Committee comments:

- The tree's roots are coming through the walls. The tree absolutely has to be removed.
- A replacement tree should not be required or recommended because the lot is so small and the light is limited.
- The Trees & Views Committee should require that a replacement tree appropriate to the backyard size to be planted in a location of the applicant's choosing.

Amended Condition of Approval:

 The requirement to plant a replacement trees shall be waived and replaced with a Committee recommendation that the tree be replaced.

Committee Member Wilhite moved and Vice-Chair Elliott seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 504 Turney Street subject to the amended Condition of Approval. The motion passed 4-0.

The public hearing was closed.

3. TR 13-110, View Claim, Schwarcz, 18 Wray Avenue. A view claim regarding the obstruction of views from the Claimant's property at 18 Wray Avenue (APN 064-204-11) by trees located on the Tree Owner's property at 10 Wray Avenue (APN 064-204-10). The Claimants seek an advisory decision regarding the restoration of views from the property at 18 Wray Avenue.

The public hearing was opened.

Associate Planner Schinsing presented the Staff Report.

The public testimony period was opened.

Presentations were made by Barri Bonapart, Claimant's legal representation, Jean and Kim Schwarcz, Claimants and Richard Gessner, consulting arborist. The tree owner was not present.

Committee questions to staff:

• Who would bear the cost of the work? Staff responded that the claimant proposed that the tree owner bear the cost of the work.

The following members of the public made comments in support of the claimant:

- Marianne Wheeler, 26 Wray
- Vanya Akraboff, 600 Locust
- Carl Schwarcz, 67 Cazneau
- Steve Moore, 33 Vista Clara

The public testimony period was closed.

Committee comments:

- The view was not obstructed when the claimant bought the property
- There is a view obstruction today
- There is a solution which would restore the view for the claimant and beautify the backyard of the tree owner
- The arborist's report provides a compromise solution
- The tree owner should pay 100% of the costs to restore the view
- The view should be restored to below the level of the deck at 18 Wray Avenue

Vice-Chair Elliott motioned to direct staff to return at the next meeting with a resolution supporting the view claim filed by the Claimants to restore the view at 18 Wray Avenue as recommended in the arborist report with the tree owner paying 100% of the costs to restore the view.

Committee Member Rosenstein seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

4. Tree Tip of the Month. Discussion of July and August Tree Tip of the Month.

Associate Planner Schinsing presented the Staff Report.

The Tree Tip of the Month for July was finalized. The Tree Tip of the Month for August was discussed.

New Business.

5. Draft Site Visit Policy. Review of draft Trees & Views Committee Site Visit Policy.

Associate Planner Schinsing presented the Staff Report.

Vice-Chair Elliott moved and Committee Member Wilhite seconded a motion to approve the Trees & Views Committee Site Visit Policy. The motion passed 4-0.

Staff Communications

- City Council Priority Calendar Update: The City Council approved their priority calendar at the end of May 2013. Two items recommended by the Trees & Views Committee, the update of the ordinance and the update of the protected trees list, were lumped into one category that did not make it above the line. Public Works recommendation of discussion of the tree preservation and replacement plan for public trees did make it above the line.
- Department of Public Works Tree Maintenance Activities—May 2013: The report is complete and has been provided to the Trees & Views Committee.

Committee Communications

None.