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SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE
Monday, December 2, 2013
Draft Summary Minutes

Call to Order

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

Present: Vice-Chair Betsy Elliott, Committee Member Ellen Rosenstein, Committee Member Tom Wilhite

Absent: Chair Mary Lee Bickford, Committee Member Peter Montagne

Staff: Administrative Analyst Planner Lilly Schinsing,

Approval of Agenda

Committee Member Wilhite moved and Committee Member Rosenstein seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed 3-0.

Public Comments of Items Not on Agenda

None.

Approval of Minutes

None.

Public Hearings

- 1. TRP 13-312, Tree Removal Permit, Langsam, 62, 64, 66, 68 Lower Crescent Avenue.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of five Coast Live Oak trees located at 62, 64, 66, 68 Lower Crescent Avenue (APN 065-231-12).

The public hearing was opened.

Administrative Analyst Lilly Schinsing provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The public testimony period was opened.

Committee questions for Marsha August, the Tree Owner:

- What do you propose for replacement trees if the subject trees are removed? *Ms. August responded she had not decided yet and would take the advice of the arborist.*
- Do these trees have Sudden Oak Death? *Ms. August responded she believes they do.*

1 Ed Gurka, the Applicant, made a presentation.
2

3 Committee questions for Mr. Gurka:

- 4 • Does Tree #3 have Sudden Oak Death? *Mr. Gurka responded no, the girdling*
5 *of the tree might have been caused by mechanical damage or something else,*
6 *such as the root rot he found in the area. Tree #4 may or may not have Sudden*
7 *Oak Death, but he could not confirm because the tree is almost dead.*
- 8 • Do you think there is room on the property for five replacement trees? *Mr.*
9 *Gurka responded that if five replacement trees are planted they were thinking*
10 *of standard trees from a nursery that have a single stalk and grows a single*
11 *trunk, or multi-stem shrubs that have spreading branches. He believes there*
12 *may be enough room on the property for five replacement plantings if it is small*
13 *trees or perhaps large shrubs. He believes the best location for a larger tree*
14 *would be the back yard.*
- 15 • Tree #3 with the girdling looks otherwise healthy. Can anything be done to
16 support the tree and keep the girdling from expanding? *Mr. Gurka responded*
17 *once it is girdled that way that area is completely dead. He is also concerned*
18 *about the tree's open cavity of decay.*
- 19 • How old are these trees? *Mr. Gurka responded maybe 40-50 years old, as are*
20 *a lot of the oaks in Sausalito.*
- 21 • Given that these trees are diseased, would you recommend grinding the
22 stumps down or just cutting them to within a few inches of the ground? *Mr.*
23 *Gurka responded that would be subject to where replacement plantings are*
24 *located. If a replacement plant were to go in the area where a tree was, then*
25 *grinding the stump would be necessary. Otherwise, cutting the tree down to*
26 *ground level is acceptable because Sudden Oak Death cannot be spread from*
27 *the oak to other trees.*
- 28 • Given that Trees #1 and #2 are by the pavement, is that where you
29 recommend the shrubs should be planted? *Mr. Gurka responded if the*
30 *Committee wishes them placed there, then yes. They would pick a plant that*
31 *provides screening.*
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34 Patty Ambert (phonetic), 64 Lower Crescent Avenue, indicated the following:

- 35 • She has been a tenant there for the past ten years. .
- 36 • Tree #4 is definitely dead and Tree #5 leans toward the house next door.
- 37 • She would like to keep Tree #3, because losing it would change the
38 appearance of the building and remove her shade and privacy.
- 39 • She would like to keep the oaks, if possible, and is concerned about what
40 would be planted as replacements.
- 41 • There is a small oak growing next to Tree #3 that she hopes can remain and
42 continue to grow.
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45 The public testimony period was closed.

46 Committee comments:

- 47 • The trees do not look good and should be removed.
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- There may not be room for the five required replacement trees. The requirement should be three replacement trees with more added at the property owner's discretion.
- Staff's recommendations should be changed to require a combination of replacement trees and shrubs to be left to the property owner's discretion.

Committee Member Wilhite moved and Committee Member Rosenstein seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 62, 64, 66, 68 Lower Crescent Avenue, subject to the following amended Condition of Approval:

- **The words, "and/or or shrubs, a combination thereof, left to the discretion of the property owner," shall be placed after the phrase, "five replacement trees."**

The motion passed 3-0.

The public hearing was closed.

Old Business

2. Tree Tip of the Month. Discussion of the January Tree Tip of the Month.

Administrative Analyst Lilly Schinsing provided a presentation.

Committee comments:

- The consulting arborist should be cited at the bottom of the tip as well as the web address for the public to find the full document cited in the tip.
- The group responsible for the full document cited may not share the same opinions as other arborist groups. Care should be taken to ensure the document is not said to be the official City-approved version.
- The Latin name for the tree should be italicized.

The Trees & Views Committee adopted the January Tree Tip of the Month by consensus.

New Business

3. 2014 Meeting Calendar.

Administrative Analyst Lilly Schinsing provided a presentation.

- The Trees & Views Committee shall continue to meet on the second Monday of each month and shall be in recess the entire month of August.

The Trees & Views Committee adopted the 2014 Meeting Calendar by consensus.

Staff Communications

- A draft of the Department of Public Works Tree Maintenance Activities has been forwarded to Committee members.

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Adjournment

Committee Member Rosenstein moved and Committee Member Wilhite seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Submitted by
Lilly Schinsing
Administrative Analyst

Approved by
Chair Mary Lee Bickford

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