# SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE Thursday, August 4, 2011 Draft Minutes

## **Call to Order**

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

Present: Chair Grant Colfax, Vice Chair Mary Lee Bickford, Committee Member

Wingham Liddell, Committee Member Ronald Reich

Absent: Committee Member Betsy Elliott

Staff: Assistant Planner Alison Thornberry-Assef

# **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

# **Approval of Minutes**

July 7, 2011

Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed 4-0.

## **Public Comments**

None.

## **Public Hearings**

1. TRP 11-229, Tree Removal Permit, Gaffney, 42 Edwards Avenue. Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of two Bay Laurel trees on the west side of the property at 42 Edwards Avenue.

The public hearing was opened. Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee questions and comments to staff:

- Is there written word from the applicant's insurance company that they will drop
  the applicant's policy if the trees are not removed? Staff responded they do not
  have written word from the insurance company. Staff's understanding is that
  the applicant contacted the arborist because of this issue with the insurance
  company.
- It would be good to see proof from the insurance company that the trees need to be removed. Staff responded the arborist only mentions the insurance company, but the actual reasons for removal are, mainly the proximity to the building, fire danger to the residence and the garage, and the possibility of transmitting Sudden Oak Death to the surrounding Oak trees.

 Do these Bay Laurels meet the protected tree criteria? Staff responded yes, they are protected based on their size.

The public comment period was opened. Being none, the public comment period was closed.

## Committee comments:

- Bay Laurels are difficult to maintain, because they grow rapidly, take water and shade from other trees in the area, and need to be trimmed often.
- The Bay Laurels are now in the space between the two houses, affecting the foundations, and pose a fire hazard.
- These trees don't have much benefit since they can transmit Sudden Oak Death.

Committee Member Reich moved and Vice Chair Bickford seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 42 Edwards Avenue. The motion passed 4-0.

#### **Old Business**

2. Trees and Views Committee Procedures – Meeting Procedures. Adoption of procedures that facilitate the efficient management and conduct of Committee meetings and provide applicants, neighbors, and interested parties, Committee members, and staff with an understanding of the steps taken by the Committee in considering and/or acting upon issues at Committee meetings.

Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

The public comment period was opened. Being none, the public comment period was closed.

Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a motion to adopt the Trees & Views Committee Meeting Procedures Resolution. The motion passed 4-0.

## **New Business**

None.

# **Communications**

#### Staff

Department of Public Works Tree Maintenance Activities – July 2011.

#### Committee

- The Committee would like the following items put on the agenda for the meeting on September 1, 2011:
  - Update on the violation process.
  - Discussion of a possible replacement tree to replace the Coast Live Oak removed at One San Carlos.
  - Ascertain if Public Works' budget allows any stumps to be ground down when trees are removed from City property.

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• Discussion regarding areas along the bay that have trees, on private and public land, that obscure vews for those living behind the trees. Staff responded that the Committee should direct the public to the Community Development Department with questions regarding view concerns.

# **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted by Alison Thornberry-Assef Assistant Planner

Approved by Grant Colfax Chair

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