

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014,  
BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN  
ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

PRESENT: Chair BLOCKHUS, Vice-Chair KIRIK, Commissioners MEADOWS,  
MOISON, and WHEELER (arrived at 7:07 PM)  
STAFF: Assistant City Manager WALGREN and Planning Services Manager  
KORNFIELD

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. **Design Review Commission Minutes**  
Approve minutes of the regular meeting of June 4, 2014.

MOTION by Commissioner MEADOWS, seconded by Vice-Chair KIRIK, to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2014 regular meeting as-amended.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4/0).

Commissioner WHEELER arrives at 7:07 PM.

**DISCUSSION**

2. **14-SC-16 – A. and S. Rajendran – 1064 Laureles Drive**  
Appeal an administrative denial of a design review application for a new, one-story house. The proposal is for a 20-foot tall house with 3,872 square feet in floor area. This item was continued from the May 14, 2014 Design Review Commission meeting. *Project Planner: Kornfield*

Planning Services Manager KORNFIELD presented the staff report recommending approval of design review application 14-SC-16 subject to the findings and conditions.

Project designer Scott Stotler, discussed his preliminary efforts to consider slope stability; conveyed to Commissioner MOISON that the entry dormer roof materials was copper; and explained to Vice-Chair KIRIK that a pooja room is for prayer. There was no public comment.

The Commission discussed the project and expressed their general support for the design changes, noting that the applicant satisfied the direction given to them; and deferred to staff on the creek setback.

MOTION by Commissioner WHEELER, seconded by Commissioner MEADOWS, to approve design review application 14-SC-16 per the staff report findings and conditions.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3. Design Review Discussion**

- A. Follow-up to Ray Avenue appeal hearing with specific regard to the Relationship of the Zoning Code with the Design Review Guidelines and Findings; and
- B. Future architecture and design review training for the DRC. *Project Planner: Walgren*

Assistant City Manager WALGREN stated that Council's decision was interpreted by the neighbors as ignoring the design guidelines, although that was not the case as Council considered zoning regulations and the design guidelines. He said that Council approved the Ray Avenue appeal subject to conditions to reduce the bulk further. Chair BLOCKHUS suggested using the Ray Avenue project as a future test case to review the effect of the design.

Commissioner WHEELER stated that he was approached by a neighbor to represent them in evaluating the City's action and that he declined for conflict of interest reasons; he was concerned if the Council action to grant the appeal meant that the DRC had not done its full work despite the Commission giving the applicant a chance to redesign; and that he was concerned that this would set a precedent for applicants to go around the DRC if they disagreed. Assistant City Manager Walgren noted that the process allows appeals and that the Council's action to require changes respected the Commission's action.

Vice-Chair KIRIK said he was concerned about development intensity; and that the City should consider counting double height areas as floor area.

Assistant City Manager WALGREN explained the history of clarifying the basement rules and that the staff will consider amending the floor area regulations.

Commissioner MEADOWS was concerned that project architect did not disclose her relationship as a Planning and Transportation Commissioner to the DRC, and felt that Ms. Bressack's comments seemed critical of DRC because of the timing of it. Assistant City Manager WALGREN explained that Ms. Bressack's offer was genuine as a former Architecture and Site Review Committee member and with her prior experience in training commissioners.

Commissioner MOISON suggested looking at the non-habitable areas too, such as inner courts and courtyards when staff looks at the floor area regulations. Assistant City Manager WALGREN concurred.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner WHEELER stated that the DRC could incorporate the pertinent codes into the conditions of approval to provided notice of problematic areas. Vice-Chair KIRIK said the City should tighten the conditions regarding variances and the less than 50 percent rule, the extent of construction, etc.

**POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair BLOCKHUS adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

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David Kornfield, AICP  
Planning Services Manager