



# City of Sunnyvale

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Heritage Preservation Commission

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Wednesday, November 4, 2020

7:00 PM

Telepresence Meeting: City Web Stream

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#### **SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE NOTICE**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Larsen called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM via teleconference.

#### **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

This was canceled by the Chair due to the Teleconference meeting logistics.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Chair Dixie Larsen  
Vice Chair Dawn Hopkins  
Commissioner Jilian Cadouri  
Commissioner Shanna Gaudenti  
Commissioner David Wu  
**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Steve Caroompas

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

[20-0928](#) Approve the Draft Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
of July 22, 2020

Vice Chair Hopkins noted that the minutes did not capture her statement regarding the missing tree plaques at the Heritage Grove.

#### **MOTION:**

Vice Chair Hopkins moved and Commissioner Cadouri seconded the motion to approve the Draft Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2020, with modifications as follows:

1) To include the following statement: "Vice Chair Hopkins stated her concern about the tree plaques that are no longer present near the trees and suggested that a new plaque to commemorate the Vargas family be provided for display".

Motion carried with the following vote:

**Yes:** 5 - Chair Larsen  
Vice Chair Hopkins  
Commissioner Cadouri  
Commissioner Gaudenti  
Commissioner Wu

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Caroompas

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

[20-0924](#)

**Proposed Project:** Related applications on a 3.34-acre site:  
**LANDMARK ALTERATION PERMIT AND TREE REMOVAL PERMIT:** to remove one Heritage Tree (northernmost redwood tree) from the existing redwood grove located in former Town Center, now CityLine Redwood Square  
**Location:** 200 S Taaffe Street (APN:209-35-023)  
**File #:** 2020-7603  
**Zoning:** DSP Block 18  
**Applicant / Owner:** STC Venture, LLC/Travis Duncan (applicant/owner)  
**Environmental Review:** The project is exempt from additional environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 1568, Program EIR, as the proposed project was evaluated in the certified DSP EIR (SCH # 2018052020) and a Statement of Overriding Consideration was made for the removal of the tree.  
**Project Planner:** Shaunn Mendrin, (408) 730-7431, smendrin@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Principal Planner Shaunn Mendrin gave the staff presentation.

Vice Chair Hopkins asked staff about what the dedication to Manuel Vargas would involve, since the tree to be removed was originally dedicated to him. Mr. Mendrin responded that staff has recommended that one of the new redwood trees would be dedicated to Mr. Vargas and that a new plaque would be placed near the new tree.

Commissioner Cadouri asked staff if the redwood tree to be removed could be

milled and reused onsite (such as furniture) as part of the proposal. Chair Larsen had the same comment.

Travis Duncan, Sares-Regis, presented the applicant's proposal.

Vice Chair Hopkins asked if the applicant has spoken to the Arts Commission about reusing the tree to be removed.

Chair Larsen asked if a decision has been made on the reuse of the tree following removal. Mr. Duncan responded that the tree will be milled regardless and has not made a decisions on its reuse at this time.

Commissioner Cadouri likes the idea of reusing the lumber onsite for enjoyment by the community.

Chair Larsen opened the public hearing.

Ms. Wang, Resident, expressed her concern for the lack of green space in the public open space around the Heritage Grove. She asked if it was possible to redesign the underground parking garage beneath the Heritage Grove to achieve more open space. She also asked if there could be a feature placed to educate the public about the tree.

Barbara Brunaso, Resident, asked whether protective walls could be placed around the tree or if parking garage spaces could be reduced in the interest of preserving the tree. Alternatively, if the tree was removed, she suggested installing a cross section of the tree trunk to display historical information about the tree or other information about the Redwood Grove.

Chair Larsen closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Cadouri said that reusing the tree in some way is important and the proposed Conditions of Approval do not specify this.

Mr. Mendrin responded that an additional condition could be added that would include milling and reusing the tree onsite.

MOTION:

Vice Chair Hopkins moved and Commissioner Gaudenti seconded the motion for Alternative 2 - Make the required Findings required to approve the CEQA determination that the project is consistent with the Downtown Specific Plan's Program Environmental Impact Report and no additional environmental review is required, and approve the Landmark Alteration Permit and Tree Removal Permit based on Findings in Attachment 2 and Recommended Conditions of Approval in Attachment 3 subject to modified Conditions of Approval.

The modifications to the Conditions of Approval is as follows:

GC-7. Lumber REUSE:

The applicant shall mill and store the redwood lumber on-site (or alternative, subject to City approval) and make available to reuse within the downtown and/or community for a period of time, proposed by the applicant and subject to review and approval by the Director of Community Development. [COA] [PLANNING]

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 5 - Chair Larsen  
Vice Chair Hopkins  
Commissioner Cadouri  
Commissioner Gaudenti  
Commissioner Wu

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Caroompas

[20-0929](#) Discussion and Adoption of Final 2021 Work Plan

Senior Planner George Schroeder gave an overview of the 2021 Work Plan and noted standard items such as study issues, training opportunities, and the annual budget review.

Vice Chair Hopkins moved and Commissioner Cadouri seconded the motion to approve the Draft 2021 Work Plan.

Motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 5 - Chair Larsen  
Vice Chair Hopkins  
Commissioner Cadouri  
Commissioner Gaudenti  
Commissioner Wu

**No:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Caroompas

**STANDING ITEM: CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL STUDY ISSUES**

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS & COMMENTS**

None

**-Commissioner Comments**

**INFORMATION ONLY REPORTS/ITEMS**

Mr. Schroeder thanked Commissioner Cadouri for attending her first meeting and noted that there are no planned items for next month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Larsen adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.