

SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 4, 2012
Approved 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 Ronald Reich,
Committee Member Betsy Elliott, Committee Member Wingham Liddell
Staff: Assistant Planner Alison Thornberry

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments of Items Not on Agenda

None.

Approval of Minutes

September 6, 2012

Vice-Chair Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a motion to approve the summary minutes of September 6, 2012. The motion passed 4-0.

Public Hearings

- 1. TRP 12-252, Tree Removal Permit, Hales and McCloskey, 640 Sausalito Boulevard.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of one Cedar tree and one Eugenia tree located along the property line between 640 Sausalito Boulevard and 56 Sunshine Avenue (APN 065-163-01 and 065-163-29).

The public hearing was opened.

Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee questions to staff:

- Is the Trees & Views Committee requiring just the one Eugenia tree be replaced and not the Cedar? *Staff responded yes, as recommended by the arborist in keeping with the proposed landscaping plan.*
- Is there a reason the replacements are five-gallon rather than the normal 20-gallon? *Staff responded because they are not large trees and will be pruned as more of a shrub.*

The public testimony period was opened.

Committee question to David Hill of TreeMasters, the applicant:

- The Eugenia tree to be removed has been described as a hedge, but it does not appear to be a hedge. *Mr. Hill stated that particular Eugenia hedge is overgrown.*

Committee question to David McCloskey:

- Once these trees are removed how far over will the hedge go and will privacy be maintained for both houses? *Mr. McCloskey responded yes, because the trees in question now break up the hedge. Once the trees are removed the hedge will be filled in and will provide screening. There is Loquat tree in that area that can be maintained low for screening as well.*

The public testimony period was closed.

Additional Conditions of Approval:

- The trees to be removed shall be cut down to within six inches of the soil.
- The trees to be removed shall be replaced with at least two 15-gallon trees to be chosen by the property owner.

Vice-Chair Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 640 Sausalito Boulevard subject to the additional Conditions of Approval. The motion passed 4-0.

The public hearing was closed.

- 2. TRP 12-257, Tree Removal Permit, Knauber, 270 Currey Lane.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of one dead Coast Live Oak tree located near the southwest corner of the garage on the property at 270 Currey Lane (APN 064-221-02).

The public hearing was opened.

Assistant Planner Thornberry-Assef presented the Staff Report.

Committee question to staff:

- Is there a reason why staff is not recommending a Coast Live Oak be the replacement tree since that is what is to be removed? *Staff responded their standard condition is a desirable species, but the Trees & Views Committee could require a Coast Live Oak replacement tree.*

The public testimony period was opened.

David Hill, TreeMasters, the applicant, indicated the following:

- He would not recommend a replacement tree because the tree canopy from the existing Coast Live Oaks that fill much of the lot would starve such a tree for light and it would likely die within three years. There is not sufficient room to plant a replacement tree in the area where the dead oak tree is to be removed and the rest of the lot is terraced and covered with ivy.

Committee questions to Mr. Hill:

- There is ivy on the floor of this forest. Are the oaks themselves covered with ivy? *Mr. Hill responded no, because the homeowner is very good about keeping the ivy off the trees.*
- Could the ivy on the ground keep the soil too wet and possibly cause root disease? *Mr. Hill responded the site is sloped and well drained and these mature oaks have adapted to this site over a long period of time.*
- Do any of the existing oaks on the lot have lesions consistent with Sudden Oak Death? *Mr. Hill responded no.*

The public testimony period was closed.

Committee comments:

- There is no room for planting on this property that is already searching for light.

Amended Conditions of Approval:

- The condition requiring a replacement tree shall be removed.

Committee Member Elliott moved and Vice-Chair Reich seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 270 Currey Lane subject to the amended Conditions of Approval. The motion passed 4-0.

The public hearing was closed.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Items for Trees and Views Committee Webpage—Group Discussion:

- Recommended for the Website:
 - ANSI guidelines for tree trimming.
 - The fine for unauthorized tree alteration on protected trees in bold.
 - Link to a description of Sudden Oak Death with photographs and a contact link for more information from the City.
 - Alert to residents that if they wish to trim a tree on City property they must obtain a permit from the Department of Public Works.

Brochures/Handouts—Group Discussion:

- Recommended brochures/handouts:
 - Sudden Oak Death.
 - Tree trimming.
 - Tree guide.

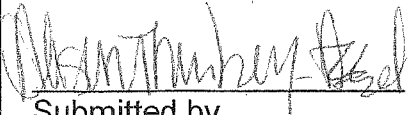
Communications

- Department of Public Works Tree Maintenance Activities—September 2012.

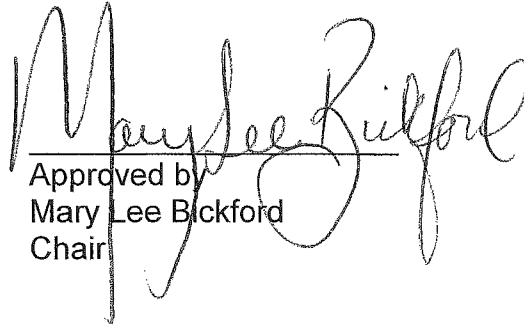
- The report is being presented in draft form. The final report will be presented at the October 2012 Trees & Views Committee meeting.
- Prioritized Project List FY 2012-13.
 - Trees and Views regulations are not on this year's Priority Calendar.
- Items.
 - Open discussion of presentation to City Council from the Trees & Views Committee regarding stump grinding, Saturday and holiday time change for tree trimming to a later time, and that topping of trees should not be allowed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Submitted by
Alison Thornberry-Assef
Assistant Planner



Approved by
Mary Lee Bickford
Chair