

SAUSALITO TREES & VIEWS COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 5, 2011
Approved Minutes

Call to Order

Vice 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: Vice Chair Mary Lee Bickford, Committee Member Betsy Elliott,
Committee Member Wingham Liddell, Committee Member Ronald Reich
Absent: Chair Grant Colfax
Staff: Assistant Planner Alison Thornberry-Assef

Approval of Agenda

Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Liddell seconded a motion to continue the Old Business, New Business, and Communications items until the next meeting on June 2, 2011 and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Chair Bickford indicated that because there were only four committee members present at the meeting that a tie vote would be considered a denial.

Approval of Minutes

April 7, 2011

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

Public Comments

None.

Public Hearings

1. **TRP 11-126, Tree Removal Permit, Budlong, 91 Santa Rosa Avenue.** Tree Removal Permit to allow the removal of two Coast Live Oaks located at the front of the property at 91 Santa Rosa Avenue.

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

Committee questions to Staff:

- How is it known that there is Sudden Oak Death on Tree 2? *Staff responded the arborist has stated in his report that SOD is seen on the east side of the tree.*
- Arborists in the past have stated a tree has Sudden Oak Death when it does not, which is a concern to the Committee. The Committee would like to know

1 how the arborist knows the tree is infected with SOD. Was a tissue sample
2 taken and tested, or did the arborist simply look at the tree? *Staff responded it*
3 *has never requested that information from arborists in the past, but can do so*
4 *in the future.*

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6 Committee comments:

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- 8 • To ensure a tree really has Sudden Oak Death it might be wise to get a second
9 opinion and have two arborist's reports.
 - 10 • A permit to remove Tree 2 should not be issued until the arborist can speak
11 before the Committee and until the City's arborist has also examined the tree,
12 then have both arborists at the same meeting.

13 The public comment period was opened.

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15 Andrew Budlong, 91 Santa Rosa Avenue, the owner, indicated the following:

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- 17 • He has had two arborists examine both Coast Live Oaks and both arborists
18 have independently confirmed root problems in Tree 1, which creates a danger
19 of the tree falling, and Sudden Oak Death in Tree 2.

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21 Committee questions to Mr. Budlong:

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- 23 • Are you aware of how the arborists came to the conclusion that Tree 2 had
24 Sudden Oak Death? *Mr. Budlong responded they diagnosed SOD through*
25 *telltale signs, such as bleeding, dripping cankers, as shown in the photograph*
26 *he presented.*
 - 27 • Did the arborists say how long the trees could live if left alone? *Mr. Budlong*
28 *responded he was told there is no way to know. Tree 1, with the root problems,*
29 *has had a limb fall off into their pathway, bark is falling off, and the top of the*
30 *canopy droops.*
 - 31 • Is the area that contains the two trees spacious enough to plant replacement
32 trees if the subject trees are removed? *Mr. Budlong responded there is enough*
33 *space, but given that the removal of the two trees is an unexpected expense*
34 *for him that will costs thousands he is not in a position to immediately replace*
35 *the trees, although he would like to in the future.*

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37 Staff comment:

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- 39 • The arborist has stated in his report that both trees have become a serious
40 threat to people and road traffic and must be removed as soon as possible.

41 The public comment period was closed.

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43 Committee comments:

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- 45 • The only thing that can be done is removing the trees on the condition that
46 they are replaced at a time when it becomes affordable for the owner, within
47 one year.
 - 48 • The Committee should request that in the future it is spelled out how an
49 arborist has determined Sudden Oak Death in a tree.
 - 50 • If Tree 2 does have Sudden Oak Death, it must be removed.

- Tree 1 has root rot brought about by overwatering. If it is serious, then it must be removed.
- A condition should be added to the Tree Removal Permit that the stumps be ground out in due time as well as replacement trees planted.

Staff comment:

- Grinding the stumps is an expense that can run into the thousands of dollars. Staff recommends cutting the stumps to an inch above the ground where they are not visible.

Committee comments:

- One committee member recently had a stump larger than the ones in question ground out completely for only \$169 and suggests the owner use the same company.
- Estimates for grinding the stumps and cutting the stumps at ground level should be solicited.
- The issue of what happens to the stumps if the trees are removed is not part of the Trees & Views Committee policy. The Committee should issue the Tree Removal Permit and have the trees cut down to 2 inches.

Committee question to Staff:

- Is the Trees & Views Committee allowed to make recommendations and requests regarding what are done with stumps? *Staff responded yes, although the City has not issued any other Tree Removal Permits that require a stump to be ground out, but has required the trees to be cut to an inch above the ground.*

Committee comments:

- On this particular property stumps would be less visible due to the foliage growing in the area, so it would not be necessary to grind the stump down.

Additional Conditions of Approval:

- When removed the trees shall be cut down to one inch above the ground.
- The owner shall plant two replacement Coast Live Oaks in the same vicinity within a year.

Committee Member Reich moved and Committee Member Elliott seconded a motion to approve a Tree Removal Permit for 81 Santa Rosa Avenue subject to the additional Conditions of Approval. The motion passed 4-0.

The public comment period was re-opened.

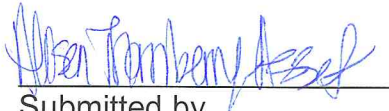
Andrew Budlong, 91 Santa Rosa Avenue, the owner, indicated the following:

- The City has never before made a condition that specific trees need to be planted, so he does not understand why it should be here. He likes the idea of planting desirable trees, but they have had two oaks fail in this location and he would prefer to choose other desirable trees. *The Committee responded the Trees & Views Committee has for years made recommendations for specific*

1 *trees for replacement for years. Sausalito has lost so many oaks to SOD that if*
2 *they are not replaced with like trees, they will eventually have no Live Oaks in*
3 *the area.*
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5 **Adjournment**

6 The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.
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10 Submitted by
11 Alison Thornberry-Assef
12 Assistant Planner
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16 Approved by
17 Mary Lee Bickford
18 Vice-Chair
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