



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

## MINUTES

**June 2, 2004**

Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Kenney at 7:20 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Mary Kenney, Rick Stevens, Kevin McCarthy, Frank Carney

**Commissioners Absent:** Bob Swezey, Laura Teksler, Dan Kocher

**Staff present:** Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Juan Alvarez

**Public present:** none

### A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frank Carney reported on the Tour de Menlo bike ride to benefit Trees for Menlo.

Dianne Dryer announced that the City Council will vote on the City budget on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Details are on the City website.

### C. BUSINESS ITEMS

**1. Approval of Minutes of May 5, 2004:** Minutes approved (MK/KM, unanimous).

**2. Heritage Tree Appeal Hearing on 1 Carriage Ct. (04-059):**

Dianne Dryer presented the staff report. The removal application from Franciscan Property Management stated they wanted to remove the Aleppo pine because it is messy and too close to the house. The private arborist form noted that the tree has healthy canopy and good structure. The City Arborist's evaluation noted poor health and structure and three branches with bad attachments. He approved the permit for removal. The decision was appealed by James and Anne Rurka (3 Carriage Ct.), who live adjacent to the tree. They wrote that the tree provides aesthetic value and screening. Neither the applicant nor the appellant was present at the meeting. The Commission decided to postpone a decision on the appeal due to the conflicting opinions of the two arborists, directing staff to investigate further whether the tree poses a hazard. (FC/RS motion passed 3 to 1, McCarthy opposed). Staff will contact all parties involved.

**3. Meeting Schedule:**

The Commission decided to hold the regular meeting on July 7, 2004 and to discuss the possibility of canceling either the August or September meeting or of combining the two meetings.

**4. Heritage Tree Awards program:**

Dianne Dryer announced that three nominations had been received. The City Arborist will evaluate the trees. The nominations and evaluations will be sent to Commissioners so that they can visit the trees and be prepared to vote on the award selections at the July 7, 2004 meeting.

**5. Commission Goals and Priorities**

Discussion centered around the development of a Heritage Tree brochure, review of the Street Tree Master Plan revision, review of proposals for development at Bayfront Park and the possibility of conducting a survey of residents on environmental interests.