

Melissa Thurman

From: Kuljeet Kalkat <kskalkat@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 9 CONSENT CALENDAR - MEETING DATE 8/22/23

Dear Council members and City Manager,

I am writing to you as a member of the board of Directors of the Los Altos History Museum.

First of all I want to thank you and commend you for considering funding some of the operational expenses of our Museum. I realize it is a very small amount of our City's total budget but it is a significant portion of the Museum's budget. Without these funds, we would have serious difficulty in running the Los Altos History Museum. We have great support from the residents and they would rally to help their beloved institution, if the need arose; but a public contribution to the Museum is a validation of the very public nature of the service this museum provides.

The Los Altos History Museum was chartered by the City and handed over to a non-profit many years ago and since then it has fulfilled its promise to preserve and curate our local history. In addition it has become a part of the social fabric of our city with all the on-going events the Museum hosts. From school children to seniors, we see lots of enthusiasm for the Museum among our residents and their volunteer activities heavily subsidize our expenses. Hence our operating expenses are a lot less than if the City ran the Historical Museum and all the events itself.

Lastly, I wanted to let you know that as a board member I can attest to the transparent, judicious and frugal use of these funds at the museum. Our books are public and the City is welcome to review or audit them at will.

I hope you will approve this 5 year commitment to contribute to the museum and I hope we are able to keep the Museum going for at least another 50 years!

Thank you.

-Kuljeet Kalkat

Member of the Executive Committee of the Board
Los Altos History Museum

Melissa Thurman

From: Harry Guy <harrypguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:25 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 12 Mechanical Equipment - 08/22/2023

My sincere thanks to Staff for their concerted efforts to craft concise code language for Mechanical Equipment. Unfortunately, the current proposed wording does not provide workable solutions for our many Los Altos small lots, for example, 50ft wide lots. The distance between houses for these lots is 10ft, generally with a shared good neighbor fence along the property line at 5ft to each house. The proposed minimum setback of 5ft completely eliminates any mechanical equipment on the side of these homes, even a relatively quiet and thin exterior, wall-mounted demand water heater. Mountain View has apparently addressed this issue by adopting a 3ft minimum side setback. I would encourage Council to ask Staff to take another look at the unique adverse constraints this ordinance will have on small lots, before it is finally approved.

A closely related code is the Noise Control Ordinance, Chapter 6.16. This ordinance needs to be updated, particularly to be more flexible and encouraging for residents to install standby generators. The currently available generators cannot meet the requirements of Chapter 6.16, however they operate very infrequently, monthly for testing, or when the home loses grid power. The enforcement of the current code basically allows only solar with batteries, which is high cost to many older homeowners who need backup power now more than ever. In 2020 and 2021, some of us saw how many of the jurisdictions in Northern CA had modified their noise ordinances for increased flexibility for homeowners to install standby generators. Many of the jurisdictions in Marin and elsewhere have made these accommodations, and we provided that information to City staff with examples and requested that staff consider the need for changes in the noise ordinance for emergency generators. To our knowledge, no action has been taken on this important topic; I respectfully ask Council to request staff to reassess the noise ordinance.

Sincerely,
Harry
Harry Guy - Los Altos resident and emergency volunteer leader