

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Roberta Phillips <robertaphillips1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 29, 2024 8:54 AM  
**To:** City Council; Gabriel Engeland; Public Comment; jdevere@losaltoshistory.org  
**Subject:** Tree Removal Permit Heritage Apricot Orchard

Dear Council Members, Gabe Engeland and History Museum

I am a resident of Los Altos .

I saw the sign for the removal of 25 apricot trees posted near the Police Station. I am writing to ask that if for some reason the apricot trees need to be removed that they be replaced with new apricot trees. I value the Heritage Apricot Orchard and believe it is part of the soul of our community. I am not a lawyer , but I am confident that the leaders of our community can figure out a way to keep as many apricot trees as possible, even if they are located in a slightly different location on the Civic Center site.

Please replace any apricot trees with new apricot trees.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

I looked up the Heritage Apricot orchard on Google and found that " This last stand of apricot trees in our community has been protected since the 1950s as a tribute to an orchard economy that dominated this region for a century. It was officially named a historic landmark and registered with the state of California in 1981.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Roberta Phillips <robertaphillips1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 4, 2024 10:53 AM  
**To:** Public Comment; Roberta Phillips  
**Subject:** Council meeting July 9,2024 Item #8

Dear Council Members

Item #8 suggests forming a subcommittee to discuss a subsidy for childcare. I would like for you to consider a subsidy for Senior Daycare.

Adult daycare services assist working caregivers to balance the needs of work and caregiving responsibilities. It would be terrific to have a program in Los Altos to help our aging population to stay mentally and physically active, while reducing their isolation and decline in their abilities.

There are many California State Programs under the umbrella of the California Department of Aging where guidance and grants can be obtained.

Please see attached link

[https://aging.ca.gov/About\\_Us/](https://aging.ca.gov/About_Us/)

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips

650-941-6940

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Jim Wing <jameswing@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 6, 2024 12:21 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Council 07/09/2024 Meeting Agenda Item11 Hillview Dog Park

Los Altos Mayor Weinberg and Distinguished Council Members,

Council 07/09/2024 Meeting Agenda Item 11 Hillview Dog Park

I support Hillview Dog Park Preliminary Design, but do not support Water-Feature [dog wash] at entrance. PARC also did not support Water-Feature.

My Water-Feature concerns are as follows:

- Water-feature uses permeable pavers for Water-Feature drain. Permeable pavers very small drainage pores will very quickly become clogged with pollen from nearby oak trees. We residents are already seeing SU-20 Shoulder Improvement permeable pavers near Oak trees becoming clogged a short time after being installed. Packard Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> street building still is having pollen clogging their stormwater capture system filters. They change filters often. If a drain is installed, it will need to be connected to Los Altos sewer to prevent soil contamination.
- Water-feature will need daily cleaning by staff to insure it is contamination free for dogs to use. A cleaning maintenance budget will need to be provided.
- Entrance Water-Feature will cause congestion. When a dog is using Water-Feature, other dogs wanting to enter will resist entry because of “commotion” of spraying water and excited owner washing dog. It is best to keep entrance simple and stress free for dogs. We want to welcome them to stress free Hillview Dog Park.

Thank you for your consideration! Jim Wing Milverton Road Los Altos, Ca

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Andrea Wald <waldmba@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 7, 2024 8:56 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** plans for the Hillview dog park

Resending to fix email address at "publiccomment".

Andrea

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Andrea Wald** <[waldmba@gmail.com](mailto:waldmba@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sun, Jul 7, 2024 at 6:14 PM  
**Subject:** plans for the Hillview dog park  
**To:** <[council@losaltosca.gov](mailto:council@losaltosca.gov)>, <[publiccomments@losaltosca.gov](mailto:publiccomments@losaltosca.gov)>

Dear City Council members,

I was alerted to the fact that the City Council will be discussing and possibly voting on the plans for the new dog park at Hillview at your meeting this coming Tuesday evening, June 9th. I am extremely concerned that Artificial Turf has been discussed and seems to be something that might actually be approved for the dog park - even when I see that there is mention that AT is of concern and also survey results show that those preferring natural grass are more than double the amount who've indicated they want AT.

I have so much info I could share on why Artificial Turf is bad for the environment and health and safety of all, but have no way to know how much you all already know about the harms of AT. So as not to overwhelm, please take a look at the excellent article that was written recently by Dr. Sue Chow of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club: Co-Organizer, Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP), and Executive Committee Member.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/blog/2024/05/artificial-turf-wars-people-fighting-protect-their-communities>

Not only is Artificial Turf toxic and bad for the environment, but it heats up to 50-80 degrees more than natural grass. Not only will the dog owners not be happy to be standing on the AT plastic field, but the dogs will not like it and with increasingly warmer temps, might actually burn the pads on their feet.

Plus, dog urine and poop will not biodegrade and will need to be cleaned with nasty chemicals.

I hope that those deciding on the surface for the dog park will take all the harms of AT into consideration and vote for natural grass - better for all the right reasons.

Thank you.

Andrea Wald - Member of Community for Natural Play Surfaces

We advocate for safe natural play surfaces. We educate public and private stakeholders on the harms of artificial turf and other artificial materials. We strive to increase the amount of grass and natural materials in our playing fields, playgrounds, parks and towns.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Susan Hinton <suewalt@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 9:41 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comment, July 9, 2024 Council meeting, item #11 (Grass, not hot plastic, for Hillview Dog Park)

Dear Los Altos Mayor and City Councillors,

I'm Susan Hinton, a Sierra Club member and a resident of the City of Santa Clara with a family dog. My family often visits dog parks and other pet friendly areas around the Southern San Francisco Bay Area, and we are glad to hear that Los Altos may be planning to approve a permanent dog park in Hillview Park.

However I would like to encourage the Council to insist on grass over artificial turf. In Santa Clara there are two dog parks within a half mile of each other, the Raymond Gamma Dog Park on Reed Street and the Larry Marsalli Park Dog Area on Lafayette Street. While the dog park on Reed Street has artificial turf, the dog area at Marsalli Park has grass that is mowed but otherwise largely untended.

On hot days, especially like those of the past week or so, dogs visiting Reed Street do their best to stay under the few available trees, set close to the fence, as they avoid putting their paws onto the plastic turf. A person can feel the heat rising from the hot surface, which feels significantly hotter than other sunlit areas. It's well documented that artificial turf can become as much as 60°F to 80°F hotter than the ambient air temperature and, with temperatures climbing to 100°F recently I hate to think about anyone, human or animal, walking across that ground.

On the other hand, though the Marsalli Park grass is a bit patchy and brown, there are dogs on the grass. They may not run as much due to the heat, but neither do they burn their paws. Another benefit of the natural grass is that, ironically, there are more trees present. Leaf fall needn't be constantly brushed off of grass, unlike artificial turf which must be kept clean to avoid a build up of debris and potentially bad bacteria. (Live plants, on the other hand, harbor good bacteria that can help eliminate bad bacteria without human intervention.)

Also ironically, the artificial turf at Reed Street needs to be rinsed off with water while, as I mentioned previously, the grass at the other park is not religiously cared for. Though I can't say for sure, it wouldn't surprise me if more water is being used during the heat wave on the artificial turf than on the grass. Also, grass can be watered with reclaimed (purple pipe) water while, due to salts and minerals that may be present in reclaimed water that can harm artificial turf, plastic grass must be watered with potable water.

Finally artificial turf is a petroleum product mixed with additive chemicals (to reduce flammability, to provide color and structure, and to inhibit chemical breakdown caused by UV exposure) that sheds microplastics and wears out after about 8-10 years. It cannot be sustainably recycled both because there is not a way to separate its mixed polymers and chemicals from each other and because "advanced" recycling (pyrolysis - high heat) actually releases more greenhouse gas than was released during its original production. Ultimately plastic grass is landfilled, which means that microplastics and chemicals will continue to pollute the ground and water long afterward.

I urge the Los Altos City Council to approve the Hillview Dog Park but to insist on grass.

Sincerely,

Susan Hinton

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Cortney Jansen <cjbassoon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Fwd: No artificial turf at dog park (Item 11 of the July 9 Council members)

Forwarding to this email address to make sure my email is included as public comment in the agenda packet. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cortney Jansen** <[cjbassoon@gmail.com](mailto:cjbassoon@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, Jul 7, 2024 at 9:36 PM  
Subject: No artificial turf at dog park (Item 11 of the July 9 Council members)  
To: <[council@losaltosca.gov](mailto:council@losaltosca.gov)>

Dear Los Altos City Council,

My name is Cortney Jansen. I am a resident of Sunnyvale, but I visit Los Altos regularly. I am extremely excited to learn that you will be considering and (hopefully) approving the Hillview Dog Park in the Tuesday, July 9, Council meeting. However, I am writing to ask that you reject the inclusion of any artificial turf in this project. **This project should be safe for our residents, our dogs, and our environment. The only way to achieve this safety is to choose natural grass.**

As presented in the Parks, Arts, Recreation & Cultural Commission meeting on June 18 ("Online Survey" slide), more respondents preferred natural grass over synthetic turf. There are no numbers on the slide, but it looks like at least 33% more people preferred natural grass over fake, plastic, synthetic turf. The online survey results on the "Consolidated Results: Dog Park Features" slide confirms preference of natural grass - **42% in favor of grass vs 15% in favor of synthetic plastic grass. Clearly, residents prefer natural grass.**

The meeting also mentioned that hygiene, cleanliness, and all weather surfacing are important. For these reasons, you should also choose natural grass:

- Hygiene - soil microbes in grass are able to break down remnants of dog urine and feces. Synthetic turf cannot. To clean it, it has to be sprayed with nasty, often toxic chemicals, which cost the City money and are bad for our environment.
- Cleanliness - as noted above, **only natural grass is able to stay clean without using toxic cleaning chemicals.** In fact, many other synthetic turf areas (e.g., Fair Oaks Park in Sunnyvale) specifically ban dogs from the synthetic turf field because the field CANNOT deal with dog urine or feces.
- All weather surfacing - while it's true that natural grass areas may need to be closed for a bit after heavy rain in the winter, **synthetic turf areas must be closed during warm days (of which we have plenty) because the plastic synthetic turf gets extremely hot - often 50-70 degrees warmer than natural grass, which means that it is unsafe for people and pets to be on plastic synthetic turf on warm days.**

The "Program Elements: Surface Materials" slide also contains inaccurate information:

- It claims that synthetic turf is lower maintenance than grass. This is not true. **Synthetic turf requires substantial maintenance, including watering to reduce temperature on hot days, regularly replacing the infill, sanitizing and disinfecting the plastic grass, maintenance and fixing holes in the various layers, and other repairs.** See this list from Safe Health Playing Fields (<https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org/maintenance-synthetic-turf>). Even Field Turf's own maintenance manual (<https://fielddturf.com/workspace/uploads/files/brochure-maintenance-guidelines-fielddturf-apr2021.pdf>) includes a long list of required maintenance.
- It claims that artificial turf is better for dog paws. This is not true. As I mentioned, artificial turf gets tens of degrees warmer than grass. To quote from this 2019 study (<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/may/synthetic-sports-fields-and-the-heat-island-effect/>), "Since grass leaves release water vapor (or transpire) and the evaporation of that water vapor leads to cooling, grass fields rarely get above 100° F. Turf fields, in comparison, regularly rise well above 100° F. **Penn State University's Center for Sports Surface Research conducted studies comparing surface temperatures of synthetic turfs composed of various fiber and infill colors/materials and found that the maximum surface temperatures during hot, sunny conditions averaged from 140° F to 170° F.**" **Dogs cannot walk on surfaces that are 140-170 degrees F.**

One other note. You'll hear artificial turf manufacturers claim that synthetic turf uses less water than natural grass. This is also wrong. **California State Bill 676 (passed last year) declared that "drought-tolerant landscaping does not include the installation of synthetic grass or artificial turf"**, which confirms the fact that artificial turf (in any context) is not drought-friendly. **Valley Water also does not consider artificial turf to be drought-friendly, specifically excluding it from their Landscape Rebate Program**, stating "We do not rebate for artificial turf as we want to support a healthy watershed with natural landscaping" (more information at <https://access.valleywater.org/s/article/Landscape-Rebate-Program-articles> and [https://www.valleywater.org/sites/default/files/01\\_Artificial%20Turf%20Fact%20Sheet\\_030614%20BA.pdf](https://www.valleywater.org/sites/default/files/01_Artificial%20Turf%20Fact%20Sheet_030614%20BA.pdf))

Verde Design and the plastics industry is working hard to get more artificial turf in our community. I have seen this in Sunnyvale (luckily, our City Council voted to keep grass), the Fremont High School Union District, and more.

Synthetic turf is a fossil-fuel derived plastic. It contaminates our water supply, requires as much maintenance as natural grass, it makes achieving our community's sustainability goals harder, and it gets so hot in summer that it cannot be used. Our dog park can be great for dogs, people, and our planet - let's do so by using natural grass and not artificial turf.

Thank you,  
Cortney Jansen



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** joyseven@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 3:38 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Dog park at Hillview

Hello,

In regards to the new dog Park at Hillview, I would like to support the idea of using artificial turf. It will allow the dogs to play year-round. With proper irrigation and drainage, it is a fantastic and efficient material. The dogs love it - go to Mackenzie dog park, and you will see that all of the dogs prefer to play on the turf as opposed to the natural grass, which has now all turned to mud.

I also hope that the new design will allow for shade, proper double gates entries, and all of the other necessities of a well-designed dog park.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Joy Sheerer

**Melissa Thurman**

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**From:** Daphne Ross <daphne.ross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 8:54 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #8 - Formation of Subcommittee for Childcare Subsidy 7/9/24

Dear Mayor Weinberg and Councilmembers,

I am writing to support the formation of a subcommittee to investigate possible childcare subsidy programs. This is an important issue for all families, and it is important for the subcommittee to gather the information needed to make an informed decision.

Thank you,  
Daphne Ross

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Gary Albright <1garyalbright@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hillview Dog Park

I am writing to support item #11. on the City Council's agenda for 7/9/2024 regarding the Hillview dog park.

First, thank you for the diligent work of the city staff and Council to prepare and approve this project for implementation. I'm especially pleased to know the staff took into account how to achieve the best possible design to have a facility to enjoy for years to come. The use of high-quality artificial turf will provide an optimal surface that will enable years of enjoyment at much lower maintenance costs than grass. The turf won't turn into a field of mud during winter rains. Turf also obviates the need for a dog wash (which would be nice but not essential.) The planned shade structure addresses a critical need for both dogs and owners during the hot summer months. And it's really smart to have a separate area for large and small dogs whose owners may not want their pets to co-mingle. Additionally, the shade will increase the use of the Hillview dog park. I primarily use the McKenzie dog park because it is close to my house. Yes, it does get muddy, but it's very shaded, and there's a great community of people in attendance. I hope the staff and Council will consider improvements to McKenzie in the future. But, for now, it will be great to have a nice, new place to take my dog where he and I can both make new friends.  
Gary Albright

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Jaria Jaug <jaria.jaug@wpusa.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Subcommittee for a potential Child Care Subsidy Program

Good evening Mayor Weinberg and Honorable City Councilmembers,

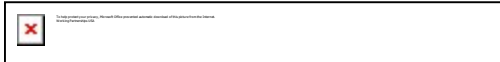
On behalf of Working Partnerships USA and the Build the Future Campaign, I am writing in strong support of the formation of a Subcommittee for a potential Childcare Subsidy Program. This exploratory committee could be the beginning of a wonderful program that would uplift the families of Los Altos. Housing and childcare costs are the two most expensive expenses households must make in the Bay Area. Affordable childcare is one of the keys to enable families to continue to live in their city and to boost business productivity in all surrounding areas. The subsidy program would enable families to continue to live and thrive in Los Altos, while creating a stronger economy for families and childcare providers.

This is the essential first step to ensure that a City-sponsored childcare program is feasible and to determine what works best for families. Thank you to Councilmember Fligor and Mayor Weinberg for your leadership in bringing this important subcommittee forward.

Sincerely,

**Jaria Jaug (she/her)**

*Associate Director of Care Policy*



408.394.6580

jaria.jaug@wpusa.org

wpusa.org



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Leanne McAuliffe <leannemcauliffe@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 1:41 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting July 9 Agenda Item 11 - Public Comment Proposed Dog Park - Artificial Turf heat islands create safety & environmental issues.

City Council Meeting July 9, 2024

Public Comment- Agenda Item 11 -Proposed Dog Park - Artificial Turf heat islands create safety & environmental issues.

Dear Los Altos Council Members

Regarding the proposed dog park, please **don't** install artificial turf. Please install natural turf instead. No matter what the artificial turf industry does or what it says, artificial turf will never be real turf. Any "developments" in artificial turf usually equates to more chemicals. And that's exactly what artificial turf itself is, chemical grass. All these chemicals are just going to shed into the environment for the entire useful and un-useful "life" of the product. These microplastics laced in PFAS then also put users, in this case dogs, at risk.

There are so many reasons to stay away from artificial turf but **heat alone** counters many of the claims in Verde Design's slide. The sales pitch for artificial turf is generally so full of holes it couldn't hold the water required to keep the surfaces cool. As an example, Verde Design do not clarify the conditions under which they claim artificial turf is cooler than concrete or pavers but this is not the case in sunny, clear conditions. (Breeze free days are higher still.) This is a well documented fact and even basic local data collection in Los Gatos, San Jose and Palo Alto has shown that artificial turf consistently measures higher temperatures than any other surface (up to 95 degrees hotter than to local ambient temperature) with the exception of rubber tiles in an elementary school. This extreme surface heat and heat island effect poses risks of surface burns, heat illness, soil microbiome destruction, tree stress and many other environmental and wildlife concerns. The only way to mitigate this heat is to continually apply water which then becomes contaminated with microplastics and PFAS, which opens up the whole can of worms regarding "saving" water.

The following are readings from local playgrounds and sports fields (Photos available if you're interested but better still go out to one of these fields on a sunny, clear day and see for yourself if you're doubtful.)

Readings (F)	Air Temp	Artificial Turf	Real Turf	Concrete/pavers	Asphalt	
Rubber Tiles						
Jul 3, 2024						
Los Gatos Sports Park (tire crumb infill)	105	200.3	112.8	147.7	153.1	-
May 17, 2024						
Palo Alto Sports Park (EPDM - polymer infill)	64	129.5	86.3	-	-	-
Oct 7, 2023						
Los Gatos Elementary	97	154	104.7	142	120	162

(no infill)

April 8, 2022

San Jose Middle School (cork infill)	88	157.2	87.6	-	-	-
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The potential destruction artificial turf can cause throughout its existence is endless just like the "forever chemicals" it contains. The only way to avert this risk and any subsequent mitigation and potential litigation costs is to not use artificial turf at all.

Please eliminate artificial turf from any design plans for this dog park and choose properly managed drought tolerant real turf instead.

Kind regards,  
Leanne McAuliffe  
Concerned resident of Santa Clara

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 3:28 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #11 July 9, 2024

Council Members:

Why is the presentation for the Hillview dog park buried in the Council Q&As, which were just made available this afternoon? I did not receive an email notifying me of the addition.

There's a lot of detailed information to be absorbed by council members and residents before the meeting -- assuming residents are even aware the presentation is available.

If the cost of this project is an astounding \$1M, I think we need more time to review it. A cursory look at the presentation makes me wonder how much is for the benefit of the dogs vs. humans. Dogs don't care if there's an "entry plaza" and patio for for people.

Re artificial turf: How many times a day will it have to be hosed down? Who will do that and how much will it cost?

It's been my understanding that the COMPLETE agenda packet is to be made available seven days before a council meeting. It's your job as Council to hold staff accountable for meeting that requirement.

Thank you for listening,

Pat Marriott

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Dan Beyer <Dan@Dbeyer.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 4:45 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Hillview Dog Park Redesign

Hi,

I am a frequent user of the Hillview Dog park. I would like to highlight several issues I would like to see addressed when the new dog park is built:

- 1: Artificial turf would allow the dog park to be used year-round. Turf (or grass) is not usable for much of the winter due to the grass becoming too muddy.
- 2: The sun sets at 4:32pm in December, this is before people get out of work. Lighting is needed for several months during the winter season.
- 3: The length of the current dog park is great. Can we have the new dog park approximately as large? I am not opposed to separate 'big dog' and 'small dog' parks; however, this can not come at the expense of a large enough park for big dogs.
- 4: There needs to be parking close to the park. If the closest parking is at the Community Center (due to library patrons taking all closer spots) it can be challenging walking large energetic dogs from the Community Center to the proposed new dog park area. This can be solved by reserving a couple of parking spots next to the dog park for dog park use.

Note items 3 and 4 can be solved by leaving the dog park at its' current location, which is my strong preference.

Thank you

Dan Beyer



## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Alice Mansell <alice@mansell.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 5:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment (not an agendized item) Los Altos City Council mtg 7:00pm 7/9/24

DATE: July 9, 2024

TO: [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)

SUBJECT: Emailed Public Comment for item not on agenda, City Council meeting 7pm July 9, 2024

I've worked more often than not in downtown Los Altos since 1973. As a real estate broker and lawyer I've advised clients on historic site preservation laws. I've also done contract fraud administrative legal work for the US Army and made oral arguments at the top US military appeals court. I've volunteered at the Los Altos orchard since the Summer 2023 harvest. I've watched with alarm over the past 12 months City Hall's piecemeal orchard encroachments for developments by ripping out trees and tree sites while installing only partial irrigation despite no meaningful public notice & comment. In the last year alone the City has "reinterpreted" the acreage of our Heritage Orchard Historic Resource reducing its defined size by 30% from 2.86 acres to less than 2 acres by removing tree sites, trees, and character defining features by current and planned building projects.

In July 2023, I watched City crew remove several apricot tree planting sites for a new ornamental flower bed by the new patio outside City Hall's entrance. That patio also removed tree sites and degraded winter rain moisture for nearby tree roots. In Fall 2023, closed door decisions between the City and its orchard contractor (LAHM) resulted in no irrigation being installed in areas "set aside" for the possible future LALE-funded library patio and the exterior expansion of LACY. On June 26, 2024, a trees removal permit notice was posted on a police department fence with no prior public notice to remove all the apricot trees and tree planting sites in the State-designated "Northeast Grove" by the police station with the City citing possible future building and utilities expansions while inaccurately citing an arborist report on the actual condition of that Grove and declining to mention the City's long and deliberate neglect of that historic grove. No reports, studies, or plans were made public anywhere before each of these orchard encroachment decisions. No involvement from the Historic, Youth, PRA&C, Planning, or Environmental commissions.

On June 14, 2024, I went to City Hall to see the LACY and EOC generator/Community Center building plans. A desk staffer told me all those plans are "copyrighted" and thus not available to the public for any review. The Assistant City Manager told me all those plans are "exempt" from any public review - not even City Council - according to staff interpretation of City codes for public and community facility projects' square footage. He let me see the plans on a computer monitor. I did math calculations and both the LACY and EOC projects' full improvements' square footage including interior and exterior work are above the City code staff-only-design-review exemption numbers. He stated no City commissions nor the City Council have any "purview" to provide any design review on either of these projects costing \$100,000s to build.

Neither the City nor its orchard contractor (LAHM) hired or consulted with any professional historic landscape or historic orchard maintenance contractors nor any historic land use experts, not even to review the City's escalating cumulative impact decisions on the historic orchard by the City and LAHM

work removing healthy trees and tree sites, installing only piecemeal irrigation, and the City' long complete neglect of the Northeast Grove by the police station. A record of inadequate care with now only partial maintenance of our Historic Resource of a working orchard.

June 28, 2024. An Appeal was filed with me as one of the signatories to prevent the total and permanent removal of tree sites and trees of the Northeast Grove by the police station. Neither the City Clerk nor Assistant City Clerk was available to any member of the public that day, as I also found on June 14. The City Manager both days was also unavailable. The appeal process today remains unclear for whether the appeal will be decided by staff discretion on an unknown date behind closed doors or if there will be any public notice & comment for a City Council hearing.

City Hall's lack of environmental and historic review, lack of public notice & comment, and lack of engaging any of its commissioners for stewardship decisions on our Historic Orchard must be remedied starting by City Council revoking the permit to remove all Northeast Grove orchard trees and not replace them in the Northeast Grove near the police station or elsewhere at the Civic Center.

The LAHM Maintenance Plan report due under its City contract in January 2024 must be made public, managed, and followed. No longer kept out of sight, now in its second draft under City staff closed door review as the Assistant City Manager told me on June 14. LAHM's Annual Report due this summer must also be made public, managed, and followed. Perhaps start with public review of both reports by the Historic and PRA&C commissioners. Our historic "working" orchard is certainly part of the City's historic resources and "culture."

The City Manager should be directed to put all of the State Historic Resource acreage on his Capital Assets list thus the public will see all the budgets for the orchard's care as a capital asset from the fees paid to LAHM to the cash used from the City funds and for what work. It is still murky who paid what for the irrigation installed in 2023. Some water lines were paid for by a County water agency grant, other lines from City Hall cash outside the LAHM contract. It is not appropriate to have the LAHM and City staff make all these land use decisions with no public input such as which parts of the Historic Orchard get irrigation.

The City Council - not City Hall staff and contractors behind closed doors - must recognize its ownership and control of this priceless community land asset. Ensure our Historic Orchard has the best possible stewardship decisions. No more closed door decisions. Stop the piecemeal destruction of the orchard by continuing to tear it apart.