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**PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #3 FEBRUARY 6, 2025 Library Patio Joint Meeting**

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**From** Roberta Phillips <robertaphillips1@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 2/4/2025 11:23 AM

**To** Sean Gallegos <sgallegos@losaltosca.gov>; Public Comment - PC <PCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov>; Public Comment - HC <HCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov>; City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>

Dear Commissioners and Staff Members

I am writing to ask you to deny the Historical Alteration Permit and the Design Review Permit at the February 6, 2025 joint meeting.

The location of the proposed 8,265 sq. ft patio is too large and overwhelming.. It is more than four times the size of my house. The placement is inappropriate as it sits between the Library and the City Hall where the Heritage Apricot Orchard is located. Even if this was not a historic site I would still want that land to be open space or green space, not a concrete patio with a tall wooden structure on top and around the sides.. We, in Los Altos, have less parkland and open space than all the towns around us. As Los Altos becomes more dense it is even more important to preserve the land and open space we have now for the health and welfare of the community. The original proposal placed the Library in the front of the Library on the San Antonio Rd side and at the time the architect described it as approximately 5000 sq. ft. There have been many debates as to the boundaries of the Heritage Apricot Orchard, but no one has discussed the boundaries of the Library. My understanding ( and I might be incorrect) is that the Library only rents the interior of the building.

The Library and NCLA could certainly find other space to expand the Library if needed. I actually agree with plans to redo the interior of the Library at the Civic Center and to improve the landscaping at the Woodland Library adding a patio at that location. I see no reason for the Patio Project at the Civic Center to move forward. Over the thirty three years that I have lived in Los Altos there have been many requests to use the Civic Center land for one reason or another. Just like the Cable Cars are synonymous with San Francisco, the Heritage Apricot Orchard is an integral part of our community that adds to the pride, identity and uniqueness of our town.

I ask that you ask the applicant to find another location. A Library building, annex or patio can be located anywhere, but the Heritage Apricot Orchard cannot be replaced and should not be diminished. I know that the City is investing money over the next few years to improve the conditions of the orchard and I applaud that effort.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips  
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