



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [Katherine Olsson Carter](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comment on library expansion project
Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023 10:28:30 AM

I am writing regarding an item on the agenda for this coming Tuesday, June 27 2023, council meeting: the project to expand the Los Altos library's outdoor space.

My children and I have been library patrons for years. While we have loved the library's programs and resources, we have often felt that the library would greatly benefit from having additional space. Not only would it be wonderful to have more places to sit and read or work, but it would also be great to have a place that could accommodate more people for library events. The proposed project would accomplish these aims and more. Given that the funds required for the work have already been raised, approving the project in my mind is a no-brainer.

I hope you make the right decision for the library, its patrons and community and vote in support of moving forward with this project at your meeting on June 27th.

Thanks so much,
Katherine Carter, PhD

Local resident and mother to three children in the Los Altos School District

From: [Leo Torreano](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Library Patio
Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023 12:55:16 PM

I am against the addition of a Public Patio being installed in the orchard that was donated to the City to help remember the area's agricultural roots. The donor donated an orchard, not a patio. Leave it alone. Have your parties somewhere else.

Leo Torreano
1011 Covington Road

From: [Catherine Nunes](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Jun 27 Item 13 and 17: Planning and Resourcing Landmark Heritage Orchard
Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023 4:22:59 PM

Please include letter in public comment packet for June 27 meeting, dealing with Items 13 and 17. Thank you.

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

From: **Catherine Nunes** <nunescath@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jun 24, 2023 at 12:14 PM
Subject: Jun 27 Item 13 and 17: Planning and Resourcing Landmark Heritage Orchard
To: Gabriel Engeland <gengeland@losaltosca.gov>, <council@losaltosca.gov>

For the last 30 years as a Los Altos resident, I have watched a steady stream of development proposals threaten to encroach on our most valuable historic landmark, the Los Altos Heritage Orchard. I was delighted to hear that the city is planning to restore this once-beautiful City Historic Landmark and designated county and state Historical Point of Interest.

I salute the city in these efforts as the Orchard has been sorely neglected and is in need of revitalization, City resources and re-education of staff and groups on just how its historic Landmark status protects the property boundaries, land use terms, appearance, etc requiring active City stewardship and preservation so as not to jeopardize the City's position in the state.

It has come to my attention that another group, the Santa Clara Library branch in Los Altos, is proposing a patio project expansion with preliminary drawings encroaching into the designated lands along with the removal of several of the trees in the Orchard. This seems premature without the benefit of an understanding of the landmark provisions, land use regulations, an orchard plan, and clarity on how the City and staff are at this point with an agenda item #13 asking the Council for approval involving the landmark property.

The Orchard's boundary has been modified only once since it was named a Historic Landmark in 1981. That was in 1991 and that required a public hearing and review and vote by the Historic Commission and a public hearing and review and vote by the Los Altos City Council and, because it is a Historic Landmark created under CEQA and so registered with the state, the state had to be informed as well.

If Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara County Library sitting on loaned City of Los Altos land, wants to take any portion or encroach upon the land deemed part of the landmark orchard or its trees, the state protocols under CEQA and historical landmarks have to be followed to be in compliance as a certified local government.

This isn't a deal where trees and boundaries can come and go willy-nilly, or sketches

can be used as proxies for the council's approval to greenlight. The steps and protocol for changing key elements and provisions of a landmark require additional land-use authority resources and public input, not mentioned in any staff report or planning docs.

The rules if not followed could jeopardize the city's status as a Certified Local Government under CEQA, a status which, if lost, would no longer allow the city to review and vote on its own Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs). This provision was included in the law because CEQA acknowledges that history is a key element in our environment that is worth saving for future generations.

I do salute the city's desire to restore our Landmark Heritage Orchard and step-up maintenance, watering and vermin/pest control, along with public beautification and education, another step to that effort included for approval with Item 17. Let's work together to improve this great asset.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nunes

64 Hillview Ave, Los Altos

Publisher, *Edible Silicon Valley*

regional food and lifestyle magazine and media

From: [Norm and Cathy Kordsmeier](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Library expansion
Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023 6:08:10 PM

Please don't encroach on our civic heritage orchard with a library expansion

Cathy Kordsmeier

From: [Bill Hough](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: public comment regarding item #17 on 6/27/2023 agenda
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 9:03:55 AM

It is refreshing to write in support of an agenda item.

I support the library patio project. I am pleased to read that this improvement will be financed through the Los Altos Library Endowment and significant private donations. This will be a positive addition to the community.

In this time of economic scarcity proponents of other projects, such as the proposed downtown theater, should follow this example and arrange for private philanthropic funding for their projects. The city should focus its efforts on public safety.

Bill Hough
Los Altos Resident

From: [Pat Marriot](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #17 JUNE 27, 2023
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023 12:11:56 PM

Council Members:

A library patio MIGHT be a fine idea, but at this point I don't understand why it's on the council agenda.

The packet is confusing and misleading:

- Letters of support touting all sorts of wonderful programs that could be accommodated.
- Supposed concern for the orchard: "If construction operations alter the quality or quantity of tree sites in the orchard, it is our understanding that the damage will be offset by appropriate mitigation actions agreed upon through open communication." Hardly reassuring.
- No information about the legal process that would be required IF the patio took any space from the historic orchard.
- An architectural drawing of a proposed patio makes it look like it's a final plan, which has many residents up in arms because it's a public land use issue and there's been no public input or review.

Agenda says: "17.Request for Council approval to send the Los Altos Library Patio Project to the Development Services Director for review and necessary approvals."

Is Nick Zornes supposed to review and approve the submitted architectural drawing? Today's Daily Post says: "With council approval tomorrow, the project would go to the city's Development Services Department for review."

Yet when I talk to library people involved, they assure me that Zornes is only being asked to approve the library district and orchard committee and library commission and donor to work together and develop a plan.

Which is it?

Now that this idea is before Council, everyone is weighing in with concerns and ideas:

- 7,700 sf is too big
- This is the wrong location for a patio
- We have to preserve the 50-year-old fountain
- We have to remove the 50-year-old fountain

- Too many trees will be cut down
- No trees will be cut down
- The patio entrance from the children's room should be at a different place
- Not everyone on the orchard committee approved the packet before it went to Council

This is not the way to get public input! I urge you to take this item off the agenda until there's a cohesive proposal and a clear ask from Council.

Thank you,

Pat Marriott