

From: Charlene Bernhardt

Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 2:39 PM

To: Jocelyn Shoopman <jshoopman@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Regarding Modification of Application S-19-016 - 244 Harding

Hello Jocelyn,

We are writing to express our opinion regarding the sidewalk install at 244 Harding Avenue. As neighbors to this property, we are in agreement with the proposed modification Marcus and Feng want to make which is to continue the existing sidewalk and to follow suit with their neighbors at 246 and 248 Harding.

We do not see any benefit for applying the standard #201 sidewalk layout. The additional excavation and requirement of building a 5ft retaining wall will only cause unnecessary work and expense to the owners. The 5ft wall will look less appealing on our street and to their property.

Please consider their modification proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

John and Charlene Bernhardt

From: Jeff Okubo

Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:57 PM

To: Jocelyn Shoopman <jshoopman@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: 244 Harding Sidewalk

Dear Ms. Shoopman,

The Town wants the sidewalk to be built in front of 244 Harding Ave to have a verge based on the standard plan #201. A verge in this location is unnecessary and will look out of place as it will be inconsistent with the sidewalk to which it will be connecting. It will also require the homeowners to dig out more of their sloped lot than is necessary, AND install a 5' retaining wall. We want less walls and more nature in our neighborhood, and we would hope the Town does as well.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Jeff Okubo

Los Gatos, CA 95030

From: Schaeffler, Chris

Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 8:29 PM

To: Jocelyn Shoopman <jshoopman@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: RE: modification of application S-19-016 - 244 Harding Ave

Dear Ms. Shoopman-

I am writing you today in support of our neighbor's (we live down the street) plan to allow the installation of a sidewalk that flows with the current sidewalk layout vs pushing the sidewalk back to meet a standard that is not consistent with our street characteristics. Makes little sense, adds more cost and will be visually unappealing to see a 5 foot retaining wall and stretch of grass that will look out of place. We drive by 244 Harding numerous times a day and would advocate the Planning Committee approve our neighbor's plan to include a sidewalk that connects to existing path and construct a 2 ft retaining wall that will be a lot less noticeable than a five foot wall that would necessary to build given the "standard" design.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Schaeffler

From: SCOTT CORNELIUS

Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 8:27 PM

To: Jocelyn Shoopman <jshoopman@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: regarding modification of application S-19-016- 244 Harding

15 September 2021

Los Gatos Planning Commission:

Attention Jocelyn Shoopman

Dear Planning Commission,

Please take into consideration the request of my neighbors to receive a modification of the sidewalk to 244 Harding Ave. The town's proposed plan #201 with a 5' retaining wall will be out of place, and a complete eye sore to the neighborhood. The homeowner request for an exception for a smaller, more simple sidewalk should suffice and will support the aesthetics and overall curb appeal of the neighborhood. Please grant Marcus and Fang the exemption and modification to install a smaller, and less gaudy sidewalk and minimal retaining wall.

I was born and raised in Los Gatos, and own the house that I grew up in on the adjacent street Cerro Chico. I drive past 244 Harding every day. I pray that you see fit to grant this exception as we do not need a hideous retaining wall and a massive fence at the edge of their property. The proposed #201 construction is an eyesore and will negatively impact curb appeal and the vibe of the neighborhood.

Again, please take this sincere request to allow the modification of the sidewalk.

Sincerely,

Scott Cornelius, a concerned neighbor, and resident ([REDACTED]) of this neighborhood since 1972 please call if you wish to discuss further [REDACTED]

thank you.

From: susie ferrell

Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 6:56 PM

To: Jocelyn Shoopman <jshoopman@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Regarding modification of application S-19-016-244 Harding

Dear Jocelyn-

Our neighbor has remodeled their home and are proposing a beautiful lay-out for the sidewalk. It appears that the town wants to enforce a standard plan that will be nowhere near as aesthetically pleasing as the plan they have proposed. Please allow them to proceed with what they are proposing by allowing the 2 foot retaining wall, and not requiring the planter strip. With a 2 foot retaining wall, everyone is able to see the beautiful shrubbery and trees in their front yard. Thanks for your consideration.

Warm regards-

Susie Ferrell

Los Gatos

From: Nick Struthers

Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 2:03 PM

To: Jocelyn Shoopman <jshoopman@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Regarding Modification of Application S-19-016 -244 Harding

Dear Jocelyn,

Myself and my wife Julie have been Los Gatos residents and homeowners for 22 years and are friends and neighbors of Marcus and Fang.

I want to thank the council for giving us the opportunity to express our opinion in a public forum.

I understand the importance of building codes and equally understand the need to apply common sense in specific circumstances.

In this specific application, standard #201 does not make any sense as it involves making significant changes to the existing landscape at the same time creating a sidewalk that is not consistent with the immediate surroundings.

I remain optimistic that the Planning Authorities will exercise their judgement appropriately for a common sense solution.

sincerely,

Nick and Julie Struthers

From: Dan Jacobson

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:13 PM

To: Jocelyn Shoopman <jshoopman@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Regarding Modification of Application 5-19-016 - 244 Harding

Ms. Shoopman,

My name is Dan Jacobson. My wife, Tabitha, and I live at [REDACTED] in Los Gatos. Our neighbors, Fang and Marcus Thordal, at 244 Harding Avenue are in the middle of a remodel which has run into an obstacle regarding the completion of the sidewalk in front of the property.

It is our understanding that the Town of Los Gatos is requiring Fang and Marcus to comply with standard #201 for sidewalk layout. This requirement mandates that the sidewalk be set back from the street in order to create a planter strip between the sidewalk and street. Although, in general, we believe it is best to comply with Town planning standards, we also believe that common sense should also apply.

The sidewalk which extends southwards towards 246 and 248 Harding Avenue would not be in line with the required sidewalk in front of 244 Harding. The setback requirement does not take into consideration the fact that the property is built on a hillside. Moving the sidewalk back would require the engineering design and construction of a tall retaining wall which would look completely out of place on our street. It would also encroach on the driveway at 244 Harding as the retaining wall would need to be continued perpendicular to the street and along the driveway also.

It is difficult to see what benefit the Town would get by enforcing standard #201 in this case.

We urge you to approve Fang and Marcus' modification request and allow them to construct the sidewalk in line with the existing sidewalk adjacent to their property.

Sincerely,

Dan & Tabitha Jacobson

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