



Memorandum

TO: Historic Landmarks Commission **FROM:** Courtney Damkroger

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: January 24, 2005

REQUEST TO SEND A HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CAMBRIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 7, 2005, ON THE STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN ADJACENT TO THE WE AND OUR NEIGHBOR'S CLUB HOUSE AT 15460 UNION AVENUE

BACKGROUND

This project was first brought to the Historic Landmarks Commission at the October 6, 2004 meeting pursuant to the City Council Policy on the Preservation of Historic Landmarks. The proposed widening of and safety improvements to the intersection of Union Avenue and Los Gatos-Almaden Road originally had an adverse impact to the We and Our Neighbors Club House City Landmark and National Register listed site. The San Jose Departments of Public Works and Transportation brought the proposal to the Historic Landmarks Commission Design Review Committee's October and November 2004 meetings and proposed revisions that appear to significantly lessen the impact to the historic resource.

ANALYSIS

Currently, to provide for pedestrian safety, the project will install sidewalks, wheelchair ramps, and curb and gutter at the northeast corner. Due to the nature of the We and Our Neighbors site located at the northeast corner, the proposed improvements were designed to minimize impacts to the historic site. The proposal no longer brings the road improvements to within approximately 15 feet along Los Gatos-Almaden Road and 16 feet along Union Avenue of the We and Our Neighbors Club House, calling for the removal of the historic low stone wall, the trellis and garden setting.

The current proposal calls for the retention of most of the existing site perimeter stonewall, the entire trellis, and garden setting. The new sidewalk will be installed inside the property within the boundary of the stonewall and will resemble a meandering garden walkway that will wrap around the historic building. A section of the stonewall at the intersection as well as the 30-inch diameter Redwood tree closest to the corner will be removed to make way for the sidewalks and wheelchair ramps. The existing 22-inch diameter Redwood adjacent to Los Gatos will be retained. The placement of the sidewalk adjacent to Union Avenue will also necessitate the removal of a volunteer 8-inch diameter Holly Oak tree.

To provide bicyclist safety, the project will provide a separate bike lane at the westbound approach. Additionally, the project will include realignment of the intersection cross walks

perpendicularly, provide street lighting, install street trees, improve drainage, and relocate utilities.

The Historic Landmarks Commission played an important role in working with the Public Works and Transportation Departments to draft an alternative that substantially preserves the historic site. It is requested to have a Commissioner and Planning staff at the February community meeting to address any historic preservation interests or concerns. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Cambrian School District Board Room, 4115 Jacksol Drive, San Jose.

It is anticipated that a Historic Preservation Permit for the project will come to the Historic Landmarks Commission in the near future for the Commission's review and recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Historic Landmarks Commission vote to select one of its members to represent the Commission at the February 7, 2005 community meeting.

Courtney Damkroger
Historic Preservation Officer

Attachments: Conceptual Plan