

Vacant Property Fencing Public Meeting Comments

September 16, 2015

- Would like to see an appeal process.
- Requiring a top rail for chain link fencing makes it easier to climb.
- There is a definite need for property owners to be able to fence vacant property due to trespassing issues. Lights and cameras do not work because they burn out and are stolen.
- There needs to be stronger City enforcement against trespassers and for violators who dump goods.
- City should focus more on the problems that are forcing property owners to fence their property, i.e. illegal dumping, homeless encampments, and trespassing, then on making new regulations related to fencing.
- There need to be more places that accept bulky waste in the City so people don't have to dump goods illegally.
- In general, the City's permitting process is burdensome and makes it difficult to develop vacant property. General frustration about the long, burdensome and expensive permitting process and requirements that a landscape architect, for example, prepare plans when it is more expensive than having a landscape designer prepare plans.
- There should be a difference in fencing requirements for properties that have been vacant for decades and those for which people are seeking entitlement to develop.
- There should be a long amortization period for people to change over non-conforming fences. A year seems reasonable.
- Property owners should be held accountable but they need more enforcement assistance when they are experiencing unwanted dumping, graffiti and trespassing.
- This seems like regulation for its own sake. How does it further the goals of the City? If it doesn't facilitate development then there is no purpose to the regulations.
- General concern about wanting existing fencing to remain, particularly if it is not damaged.

- Do not want to pay any permit fees associated with these regulations. Cost of replacement fence is high enough.
- Stagger implementation to allow well-maintained structurally sound fences to remain in place even if they do not meet design standards.
- Prioritize certain areas of the City.
- City needs to improve communication, particularly around Code Enforcement and allowing people to abate issues.
- Any fence type other than chain link will be the target for graffiti.
- Caltrans properties should be specifically addressed; also look at properties at 6th and A streets; and, D and Clay streets.