



**City of South Pasadena
Planning and Community
Development Department**

Memo

Date: March 18, 2021

To: Chair and Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission

From: Kanika Kith, Planning Manager

Prepared By: Kanika Kith, Planning Manager

Re: Additional Document No. 3 for **Item 2** –1534 Ramona Avenue (Project No. 2349-COA) – Public Comments

In addition to the public comments provided to the Commission in the two additional documents, six additional written public comments and 11 verbal comments were received. Written comments were received from the following people:

1. Brigid Brahos
2. David Lyman
3. Diane Cullinane
4. Maria Vela
5. Meghan Donovan Kiser
6. Theresa Shaw

These written public comments are included as **Attachment 1**.

The verbal comments will be played at the meeting and can be heard by clicking on this [link](#).

Attachments:

1. Written Public Comment
2. Verbal Public Comment

ATTACHMENT 1

Written Public Comments

From: [Brigid Brahos](#)
To: [PlanningComments](#)
Subject: Holy Family Church - Cultural Heritage Hearing Tonight
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:49:58 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear South Pasadena Cultural Heritage Commission,

As a South Pasadena resident for over 25 years, and parishioner at Holy Family Church, I am writing in support of the Church's proposed project at 1534 Ramona Avenue.

I have visited the Ramona property many times, and have reviewed the proposed landscape plan. I think the design is beautiful, and in keeping with the integrity of the house's craftsman architecture, as well as the neighborhood. I support the implementation of this plan WITHOUT CONDITIONS.

Please allow Holy Family Church to proceed with the beautification and functionality of their property without any further delay. It can only add to the value of the neighborhood.

With kindest regards,

Brigid Brahos
Grand Avenue
South Pasadena


From: [David Lyman](#)
To: [PlanningComments](#); [Cambria Tortorelli](#)
Subject: Comments regarding the 1524 Ramona Ave. property
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 11:45:36 AM

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I am grateful for the work you do in safeguarding the beauty and integrity of our city.

Having said that, I am concerned by the neighbors of my parish attempting to stymie the efforts to add beauty to this property. It is not the first efforts by this neighbor to frustrate the legitimate plans of my parish. I do wonder whether this comes of a hostility towards us because we are Catholic.

I am a 31 year resident of the city and I encourage you to respond to our concerns.


David Lyman


From: [Diane Cullinane](#)
To: [PlanningComments](#)
Subject: Holy Family Rectory plans
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 11:29:49 AM

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To The Cultural Heritage Commission,
I have seen the plans for the Ramona Street Landscaping and they look beautiful. I recommend that they be accepted without any further conditions.

Thank you,
Diane Cullinane, M.D.


South Pasadena

From: [Maria Vela](#)
To: [PlanningComments](#)
Subject: Holy Family Garden Project
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:58:19 AM

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Thank you for allowing community input.

As a South Pasadena resident, I wanted to relay my thoughts on Holy Family's Garden Project. I fully support the approval of their well thought out and beautiful landscaping plan. Holy Family followed the procedures and was approved. It is truly surprising that a commission group and a complaining neighbor can bring an approved project to a halt. I hope fairness, orderly procedure, and property rights win out today without delay and further conditions.

Maria Vela

Dear Cultural Heritage Commission,

I am writing to voice my approval of the landscape project at 1534 Ramona Ave. The landscape project has been thoughtfully designed and then redesigned as per the recommendations of the neighbors. Additionally, an architectural historian made several changes to the plan to make sure the plans are keeping with the historical integrity of the property. I know several craftsman homes in our city that have changed their front yards to more drought tolerant plants and included courtyards much as the design for 1534 Ramona Ave. There are 2 examples on the street I grew up on, Windsor Place that have similarly changed their front yards to a more water friendly design, one with a nice water feature as well. They both add to the beauty of the street and do not take away from the design of either craftsman home. The house on the corner of Oxley and Brent is another shining example of an amazing drought tolerant landscape on a craftsman home that contributes to the beauty of the area, not takes away from it. I remember when that home had only grass. It won a South Pasadena Beautiful award after the redesign of the front yard.

I would like to address the fact that Mary Edminston, the previous owner, sold the property to Holy Family of sound mind and body with the hope it would be used by the church. She had the intention of Holy Family using the property to add to the growing church. The church has kept the property and not changed the exterior other than wanting to change the landscape into a more ecofriendly design. The design is beautiful and will add beauty to the street.

I have seen yards and gardens change on Ramona Ave. This property must be treated fairly and equitably when deciding whether it's design is suitable for this property. Bringing up the former property owner in comments without knowing her wants for her property is not acceptable by the neighbors. Mary sold with the intention of the church using the property while upholding the integrity of it. The design the church has presented has been thoughtfully done, with neighbor input and historical input as well. This is exactly what Mary wanted when she sold the property, it will keep it's beauty and in fact with this new landscape will look even better than when the previous owner had it. I would know, My sister and one of her children are BFF's and have been since the 1980's. I have spent a ton of time with the family who previously owned 1534 and their intent was to add to the beauty of the city. The church is doing so with this thoughtful design. I implore you to approve the design and allow the church to add to our beautiful city.

Regards,

Meghan Donovan Kiser

From: [Theresa Shaw](#)
To: [PlanningComments](#)
Subject: Front Yard Landscaping at 1534 Ramona Ave., So. Pasadena
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:52:13 AM

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Hello,

My name is Theresa Shaw and I live at [REDACTED], across the street from the High School pool, baseball field, and parking lot. As you know, this is one of the busiest neighborhood streets in the city so I am well aware of what it means to not live in a quiet neighborhood - and I knew that when I moved here 41 years ago.

I'm very confused at the demands of a small number of residents that feel they have the right to dictate what we can do with our property, including front and backyards. I understand that crazy, elaborate items in a front yard would be an eyesore, but when a resident submits a reasonable plan that has been approved by the City and the Cultural Heritage Commission, why is it that it can be stopped because a few people object? And their objections don't make any sense. Also, every time recommendations have been met, why are more demanded? I know we have guidelines set up for historical buildings, etc., but never for front yards, etc. I'm all for preserving our neighborhoods, but this is going too far. There are many things I don't like about some of the front yards and homes on Ramona Ave., but it's not my home..... not my taste, but I don't tell them what they can or can't do with their property!!

I have seen the recent front yard landscape design sent over by Holy Family Church for the property at 1534 Ramona Ave and support its implementation Without Conditions.

Thank you,

Theresa Shaw

ATTACHMENT 2

Verbal Comments

([Click Here](#))