

From: [Kim Dominguez](#)
To: [Anne Wells](#); [Peter Imhof](#)
Cc: [Jay Ritterbeck](#); [Andy Newkirk](#)
Subject: FW: Letter for Planning Commission Meeting - October 7, 2019
Date: Monday, October 07, 2019 8:40:20 AM
Attachments: [CUsersKittyDocumentsPlanning Commission - Fences.docx](#)

From: Kitty Bednar <kitnjon@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2019 7:48 AM
To: Kim Dominguez <kdominguez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Letter for Planning Commission Meeting - October 7, 2019

Ms. Dominguez,

Please distribute the attached letter to the Planning Commission. Thank you

Kitty Bednar

5701 Gato Avenue
Goleta, CA 93117

October 6, 2019

City of Goleta Planning Commission

Commissioners:

A review of your April 18 and September 23, 2019, meetings, revealed no reason for prohibiting chain link fencing under the New Zoning Ordinance other than its lack of aesthetic appeal. There was no discussion of the advantages of chain link fencing.

Fences serve many purposes beyond adding to the aesthetic appeal of a property. They demarcate boundaries between adjacent properties and thus help to determine issues of legal liability. They help to ensure the privacy, security, and safety of a property. They also help to limit vandalism and illegal dumping on private property.

Chain link fencing is a viable option for achieving those goals:

- It secures a property effectively—keeping children and pets in and stray dogs and would-be casual or accidental trespassers out.
- It is less expensive to purchase and install compared with other popular choices such as wood and vinyl.
- It is easier to maintain and more durable than more expensive materials such as wood.
- It is less susceptible to graffiti—I assume because paint just does not show up very well on the open spaces between the links.
- At the end of its useful “life,” it is recyclable.

The two disadvantages of chain link most often cited are

- It lacks aesthetic appeal.
- Its “see-through” links do not provide privacy.

As to aesthetics, the appearance of the fence can be softened with careful planting (or the use of vinyl-coated chain link, which is designed to blend into the background).

October 6, 2019

Page 2

As to the see-through links, they can be beneficial at corners and driveways where the open design allows greater visibility than other materials do. Furthermore, some homeowners prefer that their properties remain visible from the street, so that intruders can more easily be spotted by passersby (including patrol cars).

Chain link fencing is an effective and more affordable fencing option for many homeowners when they build new or replace older fences. Prohibiting its use under the New Zoning Ordinance is an unfortunate decision.

Kitty Bednar