

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF
August 27, 2020
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 12TH FLOOR
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
202 C STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

Chairperson William Hofman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson William Hofman adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

*NOTE: Commissioners Austin, Boomhower, Moden, Otsuji and Whalen participated in the meeting by teleconference.

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

Chairperson William Hofman – present
*Vice-Chairperson James Whalen – present
*Commissioner Douglas Austin – present
Commissioner Vicki Granowitz – present
*Commissioner Dennis Otsuji – present
*Commissioner Matthew Boomhower – present
*Commissioner Kelly Moden – present

Staff

PJ FitzGerald, Development Services Department – present
*Heather Ferbert, City Attorney – present
Tait Galloway, Planning – present
Brian Schoenfisch, Planning – present
*Tony Khalil, Development Services Department – present
Carmina Trajano, Development Services Department - present
Sabrina Custer, Recorder – present

*NOTE: Deputy City Attorney Heather Ferbert and City Engineer Tony Khalil participated in the meeting by teleconference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED AND/OR WITHDRAWN

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Accepted as presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PJ Fitzgerald, Deputy Director of Development Services reported that the month of August is Employee Appreciation Month in the City of San Diego. She would like to give a huge shout out to the staff members who were behind her, Sabrina, Carmen and Carmina are in the Chambers with her all the time and makes the show run; they are the silent heroes and she appreciates them immensely. She also thanked the Legislative Team back in DSD, that is the engine that makes this all work and appreciates their hard work tremendously especially during these challenging times.

COMMISSION COMMENT

Commissioner Austin had concerns regarding the difference between projects that are on hillsides. Some projects skip the hill side and create a structure around it. Then there are larger scale projects that are mostly cut and fill. There are projects throughout the county that are eyesores. The way we work with our canyons and hillsides needs to be revisited. He believes that San Diego is missing out on great opportunities for wonderful hillside homes. He asked the staff on what we could do to have a workshop about this.

Commissioner Granowitz commented that she was watching the CPC meeting on Tuesday and they recently had an item in La Jolla. They suggested that the community look at other avenues to get changes to some of the issues they had and brought them before the CPC meeting; she felt that it was a step in the right direction. One of the presentations they made on noticing, there was a at least one suggestion made that she concurred with, that larger signage in other municipalities were placed front and center; where now signage on a construction project can be often difficult to see and can be flimsy material. She suggested that next code update take that into consideration, and she knows that it's been an issue in her community, at least some piece of it and not so much of the other recommendations.

Commissioner Whalen agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Austin. He said that there is a way, it's just not a standard practice because they had done project in the past where they ended up to over grade to meet the City standards for drainage and so on. One of the results there was Torrey Hills and that was something that worked out, but it was counterintuitive so far and they had to grade more than

they ever thought to make it work. He stated the he would be willing to work on a solution with the rest of the Commission to see what they can do about this.

Commissioner Hofman concurred with the comments made by Commissioner Austin. He stated that he loves the idea of having a workshop and will volunteer to work with Commissioner Austin and Commissioner Whalen.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM-1: **TOWNE CENTRE VIEW COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT INITIATION – PROJECT NO. 624751**

City Council District: 1 Plan Area: University

Staff: Katie Witherspoon

Public Testimony in favor by John Bergschneider, Cliff Williams and Melanie Cohn.

COMMISSION ACTION:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHALEN APPROVING THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO INITIATE THE PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS. Seconded by Commissioner Granowitz. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1 with Commissioners Hofman, Granowitz, Boomhower, Otsuji. Moden and Whalen voting yea and with Commissioner Austin recusing.

ITEM-2: **HOUSING LEGISLATION CODE UPDATE PACKAGE**

City Council District: All Plan Area: Citywide

Staff: Kelley Stanco

Public Testimony in favor by Gilman Bishop, Rebecca Lieberman, Jerry Butler, Matthew Adams and Craig Benedetto

COMMISSION ACTION:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHALEN APPROVING THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED HOUSING LEGISLATION CODE UPDATE TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND THE LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM. Seconded by Commissioner Granowitz. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1 with Commissioners Hofman, Granowitz, Boomhower, Otsuji. Moden and Whalen voting yea and with Commissioner Austin recusing.

Break time: 10:18 a.m. – 10:20 p.m.