

**PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 14, 2019
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 12TH FLOOR
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
202 C STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101**

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

Chairperson Susan Peerson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Chairperson Susan Peerson adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

Chairperson Susan Peerson – present
Vice-Chairperson William Hofman – present
Commissioner James Whalen – present
Commissioner Douglas Austin – present
Commissioner Vicki Granowitz – present
Commissioner Dennis Otsuji – present
Commissioner Matthew Boomhower - present

Staff

Corrine Neuffer, City Attorney – present
Brian Schoenfisch, Planning Department – present
PJ FitzGerald, Development Services Department – present
Thomas Bui, Development Services Department – present
Carmina Trajano, Recorder – present

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Becky Rapp commented on 12th Code Update.
- Kathleen Lippitt commented on Brown Act violation.

REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED AND/OR WITHDRAWN

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Accepted as presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brian Schoenfisch reported that last month, the Planning Commission had a workshop on the Housing Element Update. He announced that the Draft Housing Element Update will be available on the website for public review.

COMMISSION COMMENT

Commissioner Hofman commented that this week is the 20th Annual San Diego Asian Film Festival is going on and he said that he attended just about every year; they are remarkable films. He mentioned that the City of San Diego is one of the many sponsors and the San Diego citizens should really take advantage of and it will go on thru Sunday. There is a website and can google the information.

Commissioner Otsuji commented that this weekend, the American Society of Landscape Architects will be having their meeting in San Diego starting today, but officially tomorrow you will see approximately 5000 of them roaming throughout the streets of San Diego. One of the main topics is the Climate Action Plans throughout the country and one of the speakers is Gina McCarthy, former APA Administrator, Director of Center for Climate Health and the Global Environment. He mentioned that there's also an exhibit hall with a nominal fee and will be able to enjoy some of the elements that go into the designs that they have; the large exhibit that is very good for the public to see and for the professionals, many educational credit sessions in the design profession. He invited the Planning Commission to attend if they have some time and everyone is welcome.

Commissioner Granowitz commented that few weeks ago, the Commission had a meeting and didn't get input from the CPC on the Land Development Code Update. She stated that she asked around from people she knew and it turned out that there is a perception that the Planning Commission doesn't read or care about what CPG's recommendations are. She said that she's been telling people that it's not true and the opposite is true. She planned on attending the CPC meeting this month to speak during Non-Agenda public comment to emphasize the importance of getting those recommendations, the importance that the Commission ask for more details if they see a split vote and that the Commission may disagree with them, but wants their input and look for them; if it's not there, they want to know why. On a personal note, she informed the Commission that it's been almost a year since she was hit in the crosswalk and the woman that hit her was sentenced to felony hit and run with major injuries; she received three years of probation and got a suspended license. She thanked the Commission, because she depended on her colleagues especially during those first seven weeks when she couldn't really walk. She wants to let everyone know that the legal proceedings are done and that she is doing okay.

Commissioner Otsuji commented that he forgot one additional comment, he just returned from Kyoto Japan where he attended Kyoto Prize for this year. The three recipients are well-known with regards to their fields: A Chemist, an Astro Physicist and one is represented from the Art. It is quite interesting, because the Astro Physicist is one of the first to map the universe in 3D and that was his presentation. Also, there is a new telescope that is coming out in Japan which is more powerful and he is on that team to continue his effort to map the universe. He said that it is just amazing how we're not even a speck in the universe. Basically, the survey that he did of the universe is at the tip of the point of the needle right now and just barely getting started. He stated that he serves on the Kyoto Symposium Organization as well as Paul Robinson who is out in the audience today. He mentioned that the same individuals who received the Kyoto Prize in Kyoto Japan comes here every March to be introduced as a recipient of the Kyoto Prize in March and they go to three locations between March and May; they are presented as Laureates for the Kyoto Prize. First, they go to Kyoto Japan, then to San Diego and Oxford in England. He invited the Commission if they have a chance to attend in March, he'll be glad to give you any information. It is a great event and these people are so amazing to listen to and have discussions with them regarding their fields of expertise.

Commissioner Peerson thanked Commissioner Granowitz for attending the CPG Meeting and said that there is a misconception that the Planning Commission doesn't listen. She appreciated Commissioner Granowitz for attending, because it helps and so often there's a miscommunication and misunderstanding. She stated that it is a very bad misrepresentation of what the Commission role is and said they rely heavily on the community input, because they don't live and/or work in these communities. As a Commissioner, they get those votes in front of them and it's important that they're detailed and so she appreciates Commissioner Granowitz for giving them some guidance to the CPG that then can be disseminated. She said that we have 53 communities in San Diego and is held to a very high standard. The Planning Commission are held to a high standard based on the community groups and their recommendations are heavily weighed. They don't always agree, but she thought that the important note here is, there is a process. The Planning Commission are here to listen and to keep an open mind. She stated that many times she may have a misconception and as she walks in, that gets clarified, because of the public testimony. The public testimony is key to what the Commission do every day. She appreciates Commissioner Granowitz for going and speaking; it's important that they have a dialogue and when the dialogue stops, that's when the problems occur

and when there's misinformation, it sounds like that's what's happened and we need to get that dialogue rebooted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 27, 2019 AND JULY 18, 2019

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOFMAN APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 27, 2019 AND JULY 18, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Boomhower. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Peerson, Hofman, Austin, Granowitz, Boomhower, Otsuji and Whalen voting yea.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM-1: ***Appeal of Civic San Diego Board of Directors' decision on September 25, 2019***
11TH & B - PROJECT NO. 2018-40

City Council District: 3 Plan Area: Downtown

Staff: James Alexander

Speaker slips in favor of the project submitted by David Wachtel, Randy Williams, and Paul Robinson.

Speaker slips in opposition to the project submitted by Tyler Hee, Amalia McGuire and Jay Palmer.

COMMISSION ACTION:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOFMAN APPROVING STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO DENY THE APPEAL AND AFFIRM THE CIVICSD BOARD DECISION TO APPROVE CCDP/CCPDP NO. 2018-40 FOR THE PROJECT. Seconded by Commissioner Boomhower. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1 with Commissioner Peerson, Hofman, Granowitz, Boomhower, Otsuji, and Whalen voting yea and with Commissioner Austin recusing.

Break time: 10:02 a.m. – 10:12 a.m.

ITEM-2: **THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT TRAINING FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Staff: PJ FitzGerald

Speaker slips in favor of the item submitted by Kathleen Lippitt and Peggy Walker.

No speaker slips in opposition to the project were submitted.

COMMISSION ACTION:

NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATION ITEM ONLY.