

**PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 29, 2018
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 12TH FLOOR
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
202 C STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101**

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

Chairperson Stephen Haase called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Chairperson Stephen Haase adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

Chairperson Stephen Haase – present
Vice-Chairperson Susan Peerson – present
Commissioner James Whalen – present
Commissioner Douglas Austin – present
Commissioner William Hofman – present
Commissioner Granowitz – present
Dennis Otsuji – present

Staff

Corrine Neuffer, City Attorney – present
Laura Black, Planning Department – present
PJ FitzGerald, Development Services Department – present
Louis Schultz, Development Services Department – present
Carmina Trajano, Recorder – present

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED AND/OR WITHDRAWN

ITEM # 4 - SUNROAD CENTRUM RESIDENTIAL, PHASE 6 - PROJECT NO. 565879 – CONTINUED TO DECEMBER 13, 2019

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM-1: **VERIZON WIRELESS SCRIPPS GREEN ROW - PROJECT NO. 590724**

City Council District: 1 Plan Area: University

Staff: Simon Tse

Speaker slips in favor of the project submitted by Shelly Kilbourn.

No speaker slips in opposition to the project were submitted.

COMMISSION ACTION:

CONSENT MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHALEN APPROVING THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO APPROVE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) NO. 2201217, NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (NDP) NO. 2201218, AND SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (SDP) NO. 2201219. Seconded by Commissioner Granowitz. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Haase, Hofman, Austin, Granowitz, Peerson, Otsuji and Whalen voting yea.

ITEM-2: **VERIZON WIRELESS BANKERS HILL - PROJECT NO. 577788**

City Council District: 3 Plan Area: Uptown

Staff: Simon Tse

Speaker slips in favor of the project submitted by Shelly Kilbourn.

No speaker slips in opposition to the project were submitted.

COMMISSION ACTION:

CONSENT MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHALEN APPROVING THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. 2192364. Seconded by Commissioner Granowitz. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Haase, Hofman, Austin, Granowitz, Peerson, Otsuji and Whalen voting yea.

ITEM-3: **B STREET TM - PROJECT NO. 585184**

City Council District: 3 Plan Area: Golden Hill

Staff: Anthony Bernal

Speaker slips in favor of the project submitted by Anthony Christensen.

No speaker slips in opposition to the project were submitted.

COMMISSION ACTION:

CONSENT MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHALEN APPROVING THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TENTATIVE MAP NO. 2080309 (INCLUDING WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENT TO UNDERGROUND OVERHEAD UTILITIES). Seconded by Commissioner Granowitz. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Haase, Hofman, Austin, Granowitz, Peerson, Otsuji and Whalen voting yea.

ITEM-4: **SUNROAD CENTRUM RESIDENTIAL, PHASE 6 - PROJECT NO. 565879**

City Council District: 6 Plan Area: Kearny Mesa

Staff: Karen Bucey

Speaker slips in favor of the project submitted by Mark Oberholzer, Travis Ebbert, Stan Braden and Andrea Rosati.

Speaker slips in opposition to the project submitted by Jordan Sisson.

COMMISSION ACTION:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHALEN TO APPROVE STAFF'S REQUEST TO CONTINUE THIS ITEM TO DECEMBER 13, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Hofman. The motion passed by a vote of 5-2 with Commissioners Haase, Hofman, Peerson, Otsuji and Whalen voting yea and with Commissioners Austin and Granowitz voting nay.

ITEM-5: **BOOMERS REZONE - PROJECT NO. 571050**

City Council District: 6 Plan Area: Kearny Mesa

Staff: Martha Blake

Speaker slips in favor of the project submitted by Steve Rowlings.

No speaker slips in opposition to the project were submitted.

COMMISSION ACTION:

CONSENT MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHALEN APPROVING THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE REZONE NO. 2221513. Seconded by Commissioner Granowitz. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Haase, Hofman, Austin, Granowitz, Peerson, Otsuji and Whalen voting yea.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Accepted as presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMISSION COMMENT***In Memory of John Fisher***

Commissioner Haase commented that many may know that one of our colleague and friend John Fisher had passed away. He stated that he had a pleasure and privilege to work with John Fisher and it's a sad day. He later added that he knew John in the early mid-90s when he came to work for Development Services. He was on the first class of Project Managers that he hired to begin the Project Management system that the City currently uses. He stated that John didn't suffer fools very well, that's probably why they get along very well. He said that you have to dig a little bit to really appreciate his humor and his perspective on things, because as the comments made earlier, he may come across a little gruff but it should not be misinterpreted with respect to his respect for people.

Commissioner Whalen commented that he did request John Fisher for a project because it was very complicated and now we are completely bereft. He mentioned that he was a surfing friend and said that he can't tell you how different it is to meet people who you are normally in a work environment with outside of work and he was the same person. He will miss him terribly.

Commissioner Otsuji said only two words, trust and honesty. He thanked John.

Commissioner Peerson commented that she met John Fisher 20 years ago. He is a colleague and a friend. She completely agreed as an applicant, they wanted John for complex projects and the most controversial, because of his personality. He had this veneer that sometimes frustrates her, but she loved it. She knew that she had to work just as hard he had to work for her clients, because she knew that he will always do a great job, always professional and always a twinkle in his eye. She got to know him as a friend and her family, her husband Ted and son Calvin saw him not more than a month ago. She mentioned that as many knew that she had a knee replacement surgery as we get older in age, John came to her house and he borrowed her cane and her walker. She saw the side of

him, that vulnerable and wonderful loving side and she will miss him very deeply and her family will miss him as a friend.

Commissioner Granowitz commented that she didn't have a pleasure of knowing John, but he was easy to work with when she chaired the Planning Committee and they have projects that he was the manager for. She was sorry that she didn't get to know him the way she's hearing, but he always seems to be so professional; and sort of what you see is what you get and that made it easy to work with him. He will be missed.

Commissioner Austin commented that he enjoyed hearing some of the stories either the side of John, because he can only guess at that. But he is the kind of guy that you knew as professional who will do a great job. He thought that he has a charismatic personality and he enjoyed either seeing him in the Commission or working with him. He will miss him as well.

Commissioner Hofman commented that he doesn't know John very well and just met him when he joined the Planning Commission, but he really wished he had. Everything he heard about him and he loved the way he presented himself at meetings, very professional. He didn't see that hard veneer, because he didn't know him as well as everybody else, but he just loved that his reports were always good. In closing, he said he wished he had the chance to know him better and said that it is so sad; he extended his Condolences to everyone in the City and he knows that they will miss him so much.

In Memory of Joh Fisher staff members shared their memories.

Elyse Lowe, Development Services Director commented that she is happy to talk about John Fisher who was 26 years City employee in Development Services Department. He started his career as a landscape architect. He came to the City a worked as one of the first Project Managers. He was well-known for being a little bit feisty, pushy but someone who always get the job done. He was the most requested Development Project Managers. In her four years in Development Services, whenever a new project comes in, they always ask for John Fisher for complicated projects and they know that he was going to push it through; and that his attitude, his gruff and his personality that made him remarkable, sometimes a little too remarkable for some people. John is stoic and he was someone that you could just imagine seeing every day at Development Services in his uniform which is the white shirt. On days that weren't a Thursday or a Council day, it will be a pair of blue jeans and some hiking boots. In closing, she said that John was our friend and he is amazing; it is sad that he is gone.

PJ Fitzgerald, DSD Assistant Deputy Director commented that not to correct her Director, but just to give John's credit, he was here for almost 28 years and she knows that because they started the same day and were sort of friends from day one. She would like to second Commissioner Whalen's comment about John being the same at work as he was at play, because they were friends for those 28 years. They talked about how great and diligent and the good work ethic he had. All the staff experienced that, the minuses and pluses of that. As a supervisor, she also saw another side of that, he always tries to get the job done. She shared some funny stories, she said that they're both sailors and she is a cruiser and John was a racer from a San Diego Yacht Club, he was intense. John came to their boat, it's bigger and he tried to make the boat goes as fast as possibly he could. They usually just observed him and a couple of times he got kicked off the boat for bad behavior, just being too

intense, but he'll knocked and came back acknowledging that he was too intense and kind of overstep. He said that this is the new John and got a new appreciation and will try a little harder. He did that at work and at play and she enjoyed that about him. He also worked on some major projects with Commissioner Dennis Otsuji on Liberty Station. John was private and didn't want anyone to know what was going on. He told her when he passed, he wants everyone to know that he loved his uniform, loved working with them and loved working there and made a difference in his life.

Michelle Sokolowski, DSD Deputy Director commented that she worked with John in his entire career at the City and they were both DPMs for 20 years. John definitely had his styles. They were both called out at the City of Chula Vista several years ago, they were looking at starting a project management program. They are looking for a different style and they were used as an example with completely different styles. John has different style which was different from applicant perspective versus a staff perspective and she's more collaborative. They both got that job done with different styles. At first, she felt that John kind of look down on her, because her style was so different. They had a great discussion on the way back, they both commended each other. She had a new view into John that she didn't have before. One of the most amazing work ethic she'd ever seen and leading by example and it was meaningful. She used to tell PJ about his amazing work ethic and holding it up to other staff. He lived life to its fullest and had a vibrant life; he didn't make it to Hawaii and she knows that was a big thing for him, but he made it to Indonesia. She will truly miss John, but she mentioned that we still have amazing staff and she thanked the Commission for allowing them to share their memories.

Louis Schultz commented that he came to DSD three years ago and had to get train up on how we do business here. He said that John trained him up in his own way right away. He did realize early on and throughout working with John that he had a big heart and will miss him.

Derrick Johnson commented that John was his supervisor for quite some time and he was a good guy. He taught him not to have scripts in front of the Commission. He said the reason why he's not reading from a script when he's presenting, it was because of John Fisher.

Morris Dye commented that he had some real mixed emotions today. When he first started working in Development Services as a Project Manager, just after the first group. Mike Westlake and John Fisher had a little session to train them. One thing that I carried away with that was, John said when you worked on a project is to get ahead and stay ahead. He said he's been here for 18 plus years, he's never been ahead and he doesn't think he'll ever be ahead and he's been behind the whole time. He said that he tried doing what he told him and it's just a different style. He mentioned that we heard a lot of comments today and he said that he didn't like John very much when he started working here, because he didn't understand him. But as he worked with him, he learned to understand him better. He stated that he had this sort of hard veneer, but had a heart of gold beneath and once you touched that and once you got close to that, you will understand and felt the real John. All the Project Managers will miss him tremendously and will think about him every day.

Cherlyn Cac commented that John Fisher was her supervisor twice. She saw the strong side of him as well as the soft side of him, but he was always supportive. He will be greatly missed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

Commissioner Stephen Haase adjourned the meeting in memory of John Fisher and announced that there is a Celebration of Life this Sunday night, December 2nd from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at The Point in Pacific Beach and invited everyone to join.