



**PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the La Quinta Planning Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson McCune.

PRESENT: Commissioners Bettencourt, Caldwell, Currie, Libolt Varner, Nieto, Proctor, and Chairperson McCune

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Design and Development Director Danny Castro, Planning Manager Cheri L. Flores, City Engineer Bryan McKinney, Senior Planner Carlos Flores, Commission Secretary Wanda Wise-Latta and Administrative Assistant Mirta Lerma

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Caldwell led the Planning Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA - None

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Chairperson McCune requested that Staff Items be heard ahead of Commissioner Items

Commission concurred.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED JUNE 11, 2019

Commissioner Proctor inquired about standards for covered parking. Senior Planner Carlos Flores stated that the code does not provide for detail as to covered parking or carports; and given staff's understanding of the Planning Commission's intent, staff would evaluate the design of the covered parking during the review process.

Commissioner Nieto recused himself from voting on the approval of the Planning Commission Minutes dated June 11, 2019 as his term as Planning Commissioner was effective July 1, 2019.

Chairperson McCune recused himself from voting on the approval of the Planning Commission Minutes dated June 11, 2019 due to his prior recusal from discussion and vote on Public Hearing Item No. 1 related to the approval of Conditional Use Permit 2018-0005 and Site Development Permit 2018-0004 for the Desert Club Apartments project, reflected in the minutes due to a potential conflict of interest stemming from a business relationship.

MOTION – A motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Currie/Proctor to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. AYES: Commissioners Bettencourt, Caldwell, Currie, Libolt Varner, and Proctor. NOES: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Nieto and Chairperson McCune. Motion passed.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. SELECT PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/20

Chairperson McCune thanked all the candidates who submitted applications to serve on the Planning Commission and welcomed Commissioners Nieto and Libolt Varner to the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission waived presentation of the staff report, which is on file in the Design and Development Department.

MOTION - A motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Proctor/Currie to select Commissioner Caldwell to serve as Planning Commissioner Chairperson for a period of one year. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION - A motion was made by Planning Commissioners Bettencourt/Currie to select Commissioner Proctor to serve as Planning Commissioner Vice Chairperson for a period of one year. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Caldwell assumed the duties of presiding officer for the remainder of the meeting and on behalf of the Commission, thanked Commissioner McCune for his service and leadership and extended her welcome to Commissioners Nieto and Libolt Varner.

STUDY SESSION - None

PUBLIC HEARING - None

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – None

STAFF ITEM

1. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS INVENTORY UPDATE

Senior Planner Flores presented the report that is on file in the Design and Development Department.

At the request of Commissioner Bettencourt, Mr. Flores explained the difference between staff's review of wireless telecommunication facilities as presented in the report and the ten-year review of wireless facilities per Municipal Code Section 9.170.080. He addressed Commissioners' inquiries regarding applicants' compliance and the use of natural vegetation and live palm trees to camouflage monopalms.

2. UPCOMING PROJECTS

Planning Manager Flores presented a verbal report and PowerPoint regarding upcoming projects. The PowerPoint is on file in the Design and Development Department. Ms. Flores shared updates about projects in the Village; the Travertine project located south of Avenue 60 and west of Madison Street; the Pavilion Palms commercial center at the northwest corner of Avenue 50 and Jefferson Street; the Highway 111 Corridor Plan; the Indio project east of the Komar Desert Center; and the Interactive Project Map located on the City's website.

Staff noted that the City will hold a community workshop seeking input and ideas from artists and residents for a new art event March 5-8, 2020. The Arts Event Workshop will be held July 10, 2019 at City Hall.

Staff answered questions regarding the Pavilion Palms project environmental determination and addressed comments regarding the public hearing schedule. Staff also answered questions regarding the Indio project east of Komar Desert Center.

Design and Development Director Castro announced that at its July 16, 2019 meeting, the City Council will present proclamations to former Planning Commissioners Quill and Wright. He also noted that at a future Planning Commission meeting, the City Clerk will make a presentation regarding topics such as the role of a commissioner; the Brown Act; Rules of Procedure and Decorum; Conflict of Interest; and will distribute the updated Commissioner's Handbook.

Commissioner Bettencourt stated that he hoped staff would keep the Commission apprised of the actions of the Bermuda Dunes Community Council and the Vista Santa Rosa Community Council. Senior Planner Flores noted that he attends the Vista Santa Rosa Community Council meetings.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. Discussion of Planning Commission Summer Schedule.

Chairperson Caldwell suggested that the Planning Commission consider going dark for two meetings. Staff indicated that there are no items currently scheduled for both the August 27 and September 10, 2019 Planning Commission meetings. The Planning Commission concurred to cancel both the August 27 and September 10, 2019 Planning Commission meetings.

Staff responded to Commissioners inquiries regarding the aesthetic standards of carports and covered parking.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded by Commissioners Proctor/Bettencourt to adjourn this meeting at 6:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

WANDA WISE-LATTA, Commission Secretary
City of La Quinta, California