

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

**ACTION MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ESCONDIDO PLANNING COMMISSION**

October 12, 2021

The meeting of the Escondido Planning Commission was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Barba, in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Commissioners present: Katharine Barba, Chair; Ingrid Rainey, Vice-Chair; Dao Doan, Commissioner; Rick Paul, Commissioner; Nathan Serrato, Commissioner; and Stan Weiler, Commissioner.

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Adam Finestone, Interim Director of Community Development; Kurt Whitman, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Owen Tunnell, Assistant City Engineer; Sean Nicholas, Principal Planner; Darren Parker, Associate Planner; Joe Goulart, Director of Public Works; Danielle Lopez, Assistant Director of Community Services; and Jessica Engel, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Doan, seconded by Commissioner Weiler, to approve the Action Minutes of the August 24, 2021, Planning Commission meeting. Motion carried (5-0). Ayes: Barba, Doan, Paul, Serrato, and Weiler; Abstained: Rainey and Ramirez.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Kristen Bush asked if there are any plans to bring in walkable commercial / retail spaces.

FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. CLASSICAL ACADEMY SHARED PARKING

REQUEST: Joint-Use Parking Agreement to allow The Classical Academy middle school to use a portion of the City of Escondido's Woodward Avenue Parking Lot for staff parking and student drop-off and pick-up.

PROPERTY SIZE AND LOCATION: Applicant: 235 W. Washington Avenue, 237 W. Washington Avenue, 144 Woodward Avenue, and 146 Woodward Avenue (APNs 229-281-29-00, 229-281-30-00, 229-281-17-00, 229-281-18-00, and 229-281-19-00); City: 251 Woodward Avenue (APN 229-352-12-00)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15311(b) "Accessory Structures" of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPLICANT: The Classical Academies (Mark Kalpakgian)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Chair Barba confirmed that the City is not collecting payment for the use of the Parking Lot and that the City can cancel the agreement.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Motion by Vice-Chair Rainey, seconded by Commissioner Paul to approve the Classical Academy Shared Parking. Motion carried 6-0-1. Ayes: Barba, Doan, Paul, Rainey, Ramirez, and Serrato; Recused: Weiler.

2. ESCONDIDO CREEK TRAIL

A request for Planning Commission Design Review of the potential improvements to the existing Escondido Creek Trail.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed various aspects of the project including funding, landscape/planting selections, lighting, crime prevention, signage, public art, sustainability, and other recommendations.

3. EAST VALLEY SPECIFIC PLAN EIR REVIEW

Staff provided a presentation on the EIR status for the East Valley Specific Plan.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

None.

4. BROWN ACT PRESENTATION (AB361)

Senior Deputy City Attorney Kurt Whitman provided a presentation on Brown Act requirements.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Doan asked if last minute teleconferences would be possible.

5. STATE OF CALIFORNIA HOUSING LEGISLATION

Interim Director of Community Development Adam Finestone provided a presentation on recent State housing legislation updates.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed various aspects of the legislation, primarily related to Senate Bill 9.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Paul requested that the 2021 Parking Structure Cost Outlook be shared with the Commissioners.

Chair Barba would like to add discussion of the tree canopy to the next Planning Commission agenda, asked when to expect environmental and safety updates and asked for an update on the Senior Planner recruitment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Interim Director of Community Development Adam Finestone noted that the regularly scheduled meeting of October 26, 2021, and the meeting the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday would likely be canceled.

Adam Finestone stated that at the next Planning Commission meeting would include discussion on the APA conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Barba adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.



Adam Finestone, Secretary to the
Escondido Planning Commission



Jessica Engel, Minutes Clerk