

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

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

December 14, 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; Rick Paul, Commissioner; Herminia Ramirez, Commissioner; Nathan Serrato, Commissioner; and Stan Weiler, Commissioner.

Commissioners absent: Ingrid Rainey, Vice-Chair; Dao Doan, Commissioner.

Staff present: Adam Finestone, Interim Director of Community Development; Kurt Whitman, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Owen Tunnell, Assistant City Engineer; Veronica Morones, Senior Planner; and Jessica Engel, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Chair Barba, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve the Action Minutes of the October 12, 2021, Planning Commission meeting. Motion carried (5-0). Ayes: Barba, Paul, Ramirez, Serrato, and Weiler; Absent: Doan and Rainey.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.

FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. General Plan Housing Element Status Report

Staff provided a presentation on the status of the General Plan Housing Element update and addressed an associated update to the Community Protection chapter of the General Plan, and the creation of an Environment Justice Element.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed various aspects of the update, including pollution protection, environmental justice policy plans, and community engagement.

2. Street Trees and Landscaping in Public Right-of-Way

Staff facilitated a discussion regarding street trees and landscaping in the public right-of-way.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed the tree canopy and asked questions regarding a presentation made by the Public Works Department to City Council. Commissioners expressed their desire to receive information from the Public Works Department on the topic. Commissioner Paul asked if the Commission has subpoena power to request a representative from the Public Works Department to be in attendance at a future meeting. Senior Deputy City Attorney Whitman advised that the Commission did not have subpoena power and recommended that staff confer with City management regarding the request for a representative from the Public Works Department to be in attendance at a future meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Yusef Miller with the Escondido Community Housing Coalition provided comments on the Housing Element and homelessness crisis.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Paul asked if signage goes up for new businesses before or after they open. Interim Director Finestone confirmed that there is no set order for signage.

Commissioner Serrato requested an update on the status of the work plan. Interim Director Finestone confirmed that it will be an agenda item in the future.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Interim Director of Community Development Adam Finestone noted that the regularly scheduled meeting of December 28, 2021 would be cancelled. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on January 11, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Barba adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.



Adam Finestone, Secretary to the
Escondido Planning Commission



Jessica Engel, Minutes Clerk

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