



**MINUTES
SOLVANG DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 16, 2023
Thursday 5:00 p.m.

5:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Committee Members: Esther Jacobsen Bates, Patrick Cavanaugh, Christopher Lapp, Maryvonne Laparriere Martin

Absent: Committee Member Jennifer Dryden Hess

Staff: Assistant City Attorney Chelsea O’Sullivan (via Zoom), Planning Manager Sophia Checa, City Clerk Annamarie Porter, Assistant Planner Lisa Scherman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Member Lapp led in the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

The DRC concurred to approve the order of the agenda.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

Member Jacobsen Bates pulled Item No. 2.a. for separate consideration.

a. Approve Minutes of the February 16, 2023 Meeting

Discussion followed regarding changes in the minutes procedures to streamline them and availability of the meeting video.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Member Jacobsen Bates, to approve Item No. 2.a. of the Consent Calendar, as amended, seconded by Member Laparriere Martin, and carried, 4-0 with Member Dryden Hess, absent.

b. Receive and file Current Planning and Building Division Projects March 2023

Discussion followed regarding the property under current projects that is out for conceptual review and the person responsible for maintenance of the existing vacant lot.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Member Jacobsen Bates, to receive and file Current Planning and Building Division Projects March 2023, seconded by Member Lapp, and carried, 4-0 with Member Dryden Hess, absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – NON AGENDA

Denise El Amin spoke of Trolley signs & parking & minutes details.

There were no other public comments.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Discussion and possible action to nominate the Vice Chairperson of the Design Review Committee

Planning Manager Checa presented details of the report.

Chair Cavanaugh invited public comments.

Denise El Amin spoke in support.

There were no other public comments on this item.

Motion by Member Lapp to appoint Member Jacobsen Bates for Vice Chair, seconded by Member Laparriere Martin, and carried, 4-0 with Member Dryden Hess, absent.

b. Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed ground sign for The Oak Park Apartments at 1532 Acorn Way D

Planning Manager Checa presented details of the report.

Discussion followed regarding the size of the sign and the green on the proposed sign.

Chair Cavanaugh invited public comments.

Denise El Amin spoke in favor of guidelines.

Brian Schneider, via Zoom, spoke about the property owner wanting to upgrade their signs and discussed other upcoming upgrades to the property, the proposed colors and size of the sign.

There were no other public comments.

Motion by Vice Chair Jacobsen Bates to approve the proposed ground sign for The Oak Park Apartments at 1532 Acorn Way D, as presented, seconded by Member Lapp and carried, 4-0 with Member Dryden Hess, absent.

c. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval to the Planning Commission on the proposed color, exterior architecture, landscaping, and exterior lighting for the proposed multi-family project at 420 Fifth Street

Planning Manager Checa presented details of the report and discussed changes to the project.

Chair Cavanaugh commended Members Lapp and Dryden Hess for their work on this matter through the Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Cavanaugh invited public comments.

Susan Bott, We Watch, Save our Stars, via Zoom, spoke about light pollution.

Planning Manager Checa spoke about the lanterns being fully shielded and asking the applicant to incorporate comments from the last meeting regarding ensuring that the remaining fixtures are of a warmer tone and felt the exterior lights section of the code could be enhanced.

Discussion followed regarding the sample lights, incorporating a lantern light fixture,

Applicant Avi Mittelman, via Zoom, reported sending specifications on the proposed lighting; stated the lights will be fully-shielded and noted changing all of the lights to lantern-style lights. He confirmed that exterior parking wall and ceiling lights are no longer applicable and felt the lighting is sufficient.

Chair Cavanaugh read written comments submitted by Member Dryden Hess into the record.

Discussion followed regarding the proposed lanterns, having the information be reviewed by We Watch to obtain their input, consideration of landscaping, evergreen and colorful trees, and the enforcement process.

Erin Carroll, Landscape Architect, via Zoom, spoke about changes in the plan replacing deciduous trees to evergreen trees; reported that the Ginkgo trees will provide shade in the summer and light in the winter and discussed callouts to alternative plant/tree selections and use of drought tolerant plants.

Vice Chair Jacobsen Bates thanked the applicant and the Ad Hoc Committee for making the changes in the project making it a much better fit in the neighborhood and agreed with comments by Member Dryden Hess about white-washing the brick wall.

There were no other public comments.

Motion by Vice Chair Jacobsen Bates to recommend approval to the Planning Commission on the proposed color, exterior architecture, landscaping, and exterior lighting for the proposed multi-family project at 420 Fifth Street, as discussed regarding lighting and the addition of evergreen trees, seconded by Member Lapp and carried, 4-0 with Member Dryden Hess, absent.

d. Discussion and possible action to approve the material to be used for the re-roof of the gazebo at Solvang Park

Planning Manager Checa presented details of the report and presented options of shingles to use in re-roofing the gazebo at Solvang Park.

Discussion followed the fiscal impact for Option 2.

Chair Cavanaugh invited public comments.

Vice Chair Jacobsen Bates read written comments submitted by Member Dryden Hess.

Discussion continued regarding the preferred option and the probability of Option 2 costing more than Option 1.

There were no public comments.

Chair Cavanaugh spoke about getting actual costs for both options, comparing the two and deciding on which option to move forward, afterwards.

Motion by Vice Chair Jacobsen Bates to approve Option 2 to be used for the re-roof of the gazebo at Solvang Park, subject to budget review and left to the discretion of the Director of Public Works and the City Manager, seconded by Member Lapp and carried, 4-0 with Member Dryden Hess, absent.

e. Discussion and possible action to receive items for a future discussion regarding objective standards for flags in the City of inform amendments to Chapter 13 (Sign Regulations) of Title 11 (Zoning Regulations) of the Solvang Municipal Code

Planning Manager Checa reported this item is to hand off information to the DRC to review prior to the next meeting when the DRC will have a more-enhanced conversation about flags.

Chair Cavanaugh invited public comments.

Denise El Amin asked about the number of flags allowed.

Planning Manager Checa pointed out a section in the code relative to exempt flags, signs and devices and it further outlines requirements for flags.

There were no other public comments.

The DRC concurred to receive items for a future discussion regarding objective standards for flags in the City of Solvang to inform amendments to Chapter 13 (Sign Regulations) of Title 11 (Zoning Regulations) of the Solvang Municipal Code.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Jacobsen Bates asked for an update on the Community Service Officer.

6. CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Planning Manager Checa discussed the new Community Service Officer noting she will be formally introduced at the DRC's next meeting; introduced new Assistant Planner Lisa Scherman and spoke about items on the DRC's next agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:

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Sophia Checa, Planning Manager