



**MINUTES
SOLVANG DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

August 21, 2025
Thursday
Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m.

5:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jacobsen Bates called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Committee Members: Melissa Bates, Charlene Goetz, Jennifer Johnson, Vice Chair Richard Boyd, Chair Esther Jacobsen Bates

Staff: Community Development Director Rafael Castillo, Assistant Planner Lisa Scherman, Assistant City Attorney David Fleishman (via Zoom)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member Johnson led in the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Member Boyd, to approve the order of the agenda, as presented, seconded by Member Goetz, and carried 5-0.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. **Approve Minutes of July 17, 2025 Design Review Committee Meeting**
- b. **Receive and file Community Development Major Projects List August 2025**
- c. **Approve a sign permit located at 1697 Copenhagen Dr. (APN 139-182-021) for one (1) wall sign. The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA (PA 25-038)**
- d. **Approve a sign permit located at 1693 Mission Drive, Building C Suite 4 (APN 139-143-025) for one (1) hanging sign. The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA. (PA 25-039)**
- e. **Approve a sign permit located at 1693 Mission Dr. Building C Suite 2 (APN 139-143-025) for two (2) hanging signs. The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA. (PA 25-037)**

There were no public comments on Consent Items.

Motion by Member Boyd, to approve Consent Items as presented, seconded by Member Bates, and carried 5-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – NON-AGENDA

Chair Jacobsen Bates opened the public communications portion of the meeting.

There were no public comments and Chair Jacobsen Bates closed this portion of the meeting.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Discussion and direction on Color Palette for Design Handbook for the Village Design District (DD-1)

Assistant Planner Scherman narrated a PowerPoint presentation of the color palette for the Design Handbook for the Village Design District.

The DRC reviewed and voted for each of the colors presented and it was noted these are proposed colors for facades and trim will include another palette which the DRC will review.

Community Development Director Castillo reviewed next steps.

Chair Jacobsen Bates invited public comments.

There were no public comments on this item.

b. Discussion and Direction on Potential Sign Ordinance Amendments

Community Development Director Castillo narrated a PowerPoint presentation with details of potential Sign Ordinance amendments and reported that suggested comments will be reflected in future reports to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Discussion followed regarding permanent signs, clarification of acronyms for the various zones, deviation/alignment with current standards for each type of sign, allowing logos on awnings and linear foot versus square foot.

Chair Jacobsen Bates opened public comments.

Susan Bott, via Zoom, Save our Stars, We Watch

There were no other public comments.

Discussion followed regarding signage.

Chair Jacobsen Bates opened public comments.

Brian, 805 Signs

Susan Bogg, via Zoom, Save our Stars, We Watch

There were no other public comments.

Discussion continued regarding the sign ordinance.

Chair Jacobsen Bates opened public comments.

Brian, 805 Signs
Susan Bott, via Zoom, Save our Stars, We Watch

There were no other public comments on this item.

Discussion regarding the sign ordinance continued.

Chair Jacobsen Bates opened public comments.

Susan Bott, via Zoom, Save our Stars, We Watch

There were no other public comments.

Community Development Director Castillo reviewed permanent window lettering.

Discussion followed regarding opening up the maximum height to not above the first story, unless there is a tenant-occupied space above the first story in which case window lettering will be allowed.

Chair Jacobsen Bates opened public comments.

Brian, 805 Signs
Susan Bott, via Zoom, Save our Stars, We Watch

Community Development Director Castillo reviewed the discussion and talked about projecting signs and changes made to the code.

Susan Bott, via Zoom, Save our Stars, We Watch

There were no other public comments.

Discussion continued regarding the sign ordinance.

Vice Chair Boyd left the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Bates asked for information regarding existing birdhouses in front of the old Rasmussen Building.

Chair Jacobsen Bates provided a brief history of the birdhouses throughout town and noted the majority have been removed.

Community Development Director Castillo reported there is nothing in the code that prohibits them.

6. CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Community Development Director Castillo reported topics that will be discussed during the DRC's meeting next month; provided an update on 1704 Mission and Site C and referenced upcoming project permit applications.

Chair Jacobsen Bates requested a future discussion on a major projects review list and approval of consent items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:



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Rafael Castillo, Community Development Director