

CITY OF SUNNYVALE
City Council Joint Study Session with Planning Commission
Meeting Summary

Project Approval Process and Decision Authority for Land Use
Applications

April 24, 2012

The City Council and Planning Commission at City Hall in the West Conference Room, Sunnyvale, California on April 24, 2012, with Councilmember Moylan presiding.

City Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Anthony (Tony) Spitaleri
Vice Mayor David Whittum
Councilmember Chris Moylan
Councilmember Jim Griffith
Councilmember Pat Meyering
Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius
Councilmember Jim Davis

City Councilmembers Absent:

none

City Staff Present:

Gary Luebbers, City Manager
Kathryn Berry, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Robert Walker, Assistant City Manager
Hanson Hom, Director of Community Development
Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer
Rosemarie Zulueta, Assistant Planner

Visitors/Guests Present:

Members of the public

Call to Order:

5:46 p.m.

Study Session Summary:

Staff presented an overview of planning permits and the process for various types of permits, the decision making authorities, examples of recent projects and a comparison of the pros and cons of additional City Council review of applications.

The City Councilmembers and Planning Commissioners discussed their respective opinion on whether more decisions should be at the City Council level. They also discussed whether additional information to Council would satisfy concerns about lack of familiarity with planning projects. Several ideas were presented on ways to keep the City Council informed including:

- Highlights in the City Manager Bi-Weekly Report (CMBWR)
- Modified Thresholds for residential projects and review authority
- Reviewing the process to appeal decisions
- Early information on upcoming Planning Commission Study Sessions

The City Manager indicated he would confer with the Community Development Director on additional or revised techniques to provide City Council additional and earlier feedback on applications reviewed by the Planning Commission as well as significant projects reviewed by the Director of Community Development and the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Adjournment: 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer