

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2010

Potential Study Issues – AM

Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer, said that the City process for recommending potential study issues is for four or more commissioners to recommend an item by voting in a public hearing. She said at a previous study session the Commission discussed looking at how parking could be provided in the downtown area and if there are alternative programs that could be offered in the downtown. She said this item and any other potential study issue can be discussed this evening. She said staff will return to Planning Commission in September to identify any other issues brought up in the past year and actual selection and ranking of study issues for 2011 recommended by the Planning Commission will occur this October.

Comm. Hungerford elaborated on the parking in the downtown area and the reasoning for suggesting the study issue.

Chair Travis opened the public hearing.

Steven Askari, property owner in the downtown area, discussed the difficulties he has experienced in redeveloping his property due to an inability to meet the parking requirements and requested the Commission support a study issue to examine parking alternatives in the downtown area.

Antony Joma, architect for Mr. Askari, confirmed the difficulties in planning to redevelop Mr. Askari's site and asked the City to help them mitigate their parking problem by examining parking alternatives for this area.

Chair Travis closed the public hearing.

Comm. Hungerford made a motion to propose a study issue regarding the evaluation of downtown parking. Comm. Larsson seconded the motion.

Comm. Hungerford said he does not think the study issue can help Mr. Askari with his immediate issue however he does think the study issue is the way to take a look the situation downtown.

Comm. Larsson said he is an enthusiastic supporter of the motion and walkability in the downtown area, and thinks beneficial solutions would be found through this study issue.

Vice Chair Hendricks said he supports the motion and thinks the study issue would give interested parties the opportunity to weigh in on the subject.

Comm. Dohadwala said she would be supporting the motion and thinks there are conflicting goals for development in the downtown area which the study could help alleviate.

Comm. Larsson offered a friendly amendment that the study issue include bicycle parking. This was acceptable to the maker of the motion.

ACTION: Comm. Hungerford made a motion to propose a study issue regarding the evaluation of downtown parking, including bicycle parking. Comm. Larsson seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Ryan said staff will prepare the study issue paper to add to the list of other potential study issues. She said the Planning Commission will select and rank land use study issues this fall and the City Council will make the final selections in January 2011 determining what topics would be studied during 2011.

Chair Travis reopened this public hearing item after the Commissioners Oral Comments section on the agenda.

Comm. Dohadwala expressed concerns with reviewing telecommunication applications and said she would like the City to do an assessment of the City's telecommunication needs. Ms. Ryan confirmed with Comm. Dohadwala that the proposed study issue would be for staff to assess telecommunication needs in Sunnyvale.

Vice Chair Hendricks discussed with Comm. Dohadwala whether infrastructure was included in the proposed study.

Comm. Sulser discussed with staff previously proposed telecommunication study issues, that the Commission ranked the telecommunication issues higher than City Council, confirming that the studies have not been done.

Comm. Hungerford further discussed telecommunications and cell phone tower coverage and what is really needed in the City. Ms. Ryan said she does not think the City can limit the number of towers in the City.

Vice Chair Hendricks said he is conceptually supportive of the idea of crafting a master plan, however he would have trouble trying to define a specific answer of the City's needs.

Ms. Ryan said the Commission can propose a specific issue and vote on it or staff can come back with the status of other telecommunication studies and what was written previously which would allow more time to decide what the Commission might want in the study.

Comm. Dohadwala said she liked staff's suggestion to bring back the status of the other potential study issues to provide more information to help determine the best direction to take on a potential telecommunication study issue. No telecommunication item was proposed at this time.

Comm. Travis closed the public hearing.

Staff said a status of previous potential telecommunication study issues would be provided at a future meeting to allow additional information in considering a potential telecommunication study issue for 2011 consideration.