



APPROVED MINUTES

SUNNYVALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION AUGUST 4, 2010 LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was taken.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jeanine Stanek; Vice Chair Nancy McDonough; Comm. Frenchie Marsolais; Comm. Nirmala Vaidyanathan; Comm. Ted Ringel; Comm. David Squellati;

Absent: Comm. Amrit Verma (Excused)

Vice Chair McDonough stated that she received a call from Comm. Squellati explaining that he will be a little late.

Chair Stanek announced that she was in contact with Comm. Verma noting that she will not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Comm. Ringel made a motion to excuse Comm. Verma. Comm. Vaidyanathan seconded. Motioned carried 5-0 with Comm. Squellati not present.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

No members of the public were present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of July 7, 2010 Draft Minutes

Comm. Vaidyanathan and Vice Chair McDonough made minor modifications.

Vice Chair Mc Donough motioned to approve the July 7, 2010 Draft Minutes, as corrected. Comm. Ringel seconded. Motion carried 5-0 with Comm. Squellati abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Vice Chair McDonough nominated Chair Stanek to serve another term as chair. Comm. Squellati seconded. Motion carried 5-0 with Comm. Verma absent.

Vice Chair McDonough announced her resignation and that her last day of service to the Commission will be this evening.

Comm. Vaidyanathan nominated Comm. Squellati for Vice Chair. Vice Chair Mc Donough seconded. Motion carried 5-0 with Comm. Verma absent.

B. General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Update

Comm. Squellati summarized the last General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting and provided an update of what was discussed.

Chair Stanek asked staff if the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) committee will be creating the General Plan. Mr. Kuchenig explained that the LUTE is a part of the General Plan.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Comm. Ringel brought up the previous Landmark Alteration Permit from the June meeting regarding the new awning to an existing restaurant (Taverna Bistro). He admitted he felt he had done a disservice to the patrons of South Murphy Avenue by recommending a condition of approval limiting the awning to a maximum six-foot extension. He was able to go to South Murphy Avenue and found that the applicant's reason for a 12-foot extension was justified due to the shedding of the trees. He felt that it should not have been limited to 6 feet. He asked staff if it is possible to reconsider this application.

Comm. Squellati stated he felt that the condition was justified and was agreeable to the limitation of six feet. He pointed out that if all the businesses on South Murphy Avenue had a 12-foot awning, the sidewalk may feel like a tunnel.

Mr. Kuchenig said the 15-day appeal period has passed. If the applicant initiates a request to modify his approval; there would be a possibility for the Commission to approve a modification.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

Comm. Squellati asked about the Murphy Avenue Façade/Rehabilitation Program in July, as he was not able to attend that meeting. He noted that the back of the buildings on the west side of Historic South Murphy Avenue needs to be cleaned up.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the two breezeways were part of the revitalization plan; however, work to the breezeways has not been started due to financial constraints. He said that they are planned to be rehabilitated. He also said that the Public Works Department is responsible for this area.

Comm. Ringel mentioned that it is a public safety concern and that brighter light bulbs would make it a safer place at night. He said that he can provide the light bulbs if the cost is a reason for not replacing them.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner

Enclosures: Article from San Jose News dated December 11, 1967

News Report on Business, Finance

San Jose News

Monday, Dec. 11, 1967 31

Sunnyvale Mall A Success, Say Most Merchants

SUNNYVALE — Both shoppers and merchants agree: Sunnyvale's new mall is a success.

Formerly a busy downtown thoroughfare, Taaffe street between Washington and McKinley avenues was blocked off last month as an experiment, sponsored by a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) grant.

Now shoppers are free to wander from store to store, without fear of being run down by a speeding driver.

With few exceptions, merchants believe the newly created mall has boosted shopping.

The mall is expected to be switched back to a street next month, when the NAS experiment ends. But if store owners still favor the idea, some day Taaffe street may be changed permanently to a pedestrian walkway with extensive landscaping.

The changeover from street to mall was made swiftly when one night workers closed off Taaffe with a couple of barricades.

Since then more has been changed than just the traffic pattern. Trees in planter boxes now line the street, lights are strung along storefronts and a futuristic kiosk houses Santa Claus in the middle of the mall. These improvements, not included in the grant, were paid for by the Sunnyvale Plaza Merchants Association.

Discussion on converting the block to a mall has gone on for years, always with a mixed reaction.

Some businessmen were against it from the start. A mall would make Taaffe street into a block-long ghost town, they argued.

But some have changed their minds already. As one said, "At first we thought 'Boy, this is going to be dead, this is going to be terrible.' But shopping is good. There's no doubt about it."