

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2010**2010-7125: Centralized Trash Enclosure Requirements for Attached Housing (Study Issue) (Negative Declaration) SB**

Surachita Bose, Associate Planner, presented the staff report. She said staff recommends the Planning Commission recommend to City Council to adopt the Negative Declaration shown in Attachment B, to introduce an ordinance amending Section 19.38.030, and to adopt the design requirements for trash storage/collection facilities shown in Attachment I.

Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer, said **Mark Bowers**, City of Sunnyvale's Solid Waste Program Manager from the Department of Public Works, is present this evening to answer questions.

Comm. Hungerford discussed with staff why the recommendation is to adopt design requirements in the form of guidelines rather than include the requirements in an ordinance including that that ordinance would still reference the design requirements. Ms. Ryan said if the requirements are listed outside the code, it is easier to make minor changes as experience changes. **Kathryn Berry**, Senior Assistant City Attorney, said that the concept is similar to the design guidelines, otherwise staff and the Commission would have to make changes by Variance findings. Comm. Hungerford confirmed with staff that the draft ordinance says the minor changes in the design requirements could be made by the Director of Community Development and major changes would be made by the Planning Commission. Comm. Hungerford asked about Attachment I, the proposed design requirements, and discussed individual cart set-out, collection points, designated bin placement and street and truck widths.

Comm. Chang discussed with staff that "garage" refers to something that can accommodate one car or more and still have room for garbage bins. Comm. Chang discussed trucks, the wear and tear on the pavement from the trucks, the cost to Homeowners Associations (HOAs), and the affects on the public streets.

Vice Chair Hendricks discussed with staff the carts and how long they can be on public and private streets. Ms. Ryan said there are regulations in the code about when carts can be out with **Mr. Bowers** explaining the code allows carts to be out the day of pickup and a window before and after pickup. Vice Chair Hendricks discussed street width for new developments, that pedestrian walkways would not be included in the consideration of the street widths, and carts would need to be placed on the street, not sidewalks.

Comm. Sulser asked about how garbage rates are calculated versus the different types of trash pickup and enclosures. Staff said the costs would be managed and set by the HOAs and the charges passed down to the rate payers. Mr. Bowers said that the City determines rates based on a cost-of-service basis with the three main customer groups being: the debris box compactor group; the front load group; and the single-family group. Mr. Bowers said that a median rate is determined separately for the three main groups and if one group increases this increase does not affect one of the other groups.

Comm. Larsson discussed with staff the design of driveways, and a reference in Attachment F regarding steep humps and damage to service provider trucks suggesting language is added to the guidelines to minimize truck damage. Mr. Bowers said that the reference is more about grade changes rather than engineered traffic calming measures speed humps. Staff said consideration could be taken to add language to the guidelines regarding grade changes to help minimize truck damage.

Vice Chair Hendricks discussed with staff individual placement of carts and landscaping recycle.

Chair Travis opened and closed the public hearing.

Comm. Chang moved for Alternative 1 to recommend to City Council to: adopt the Negative Declaration (Attachment B); introduce an ordinance amending Section 19.38.030 (Attachment J); and adopt the design requirements for trash storage/collection facilities (Attachment I). Comm. Hungerford seconded the motion.

Comm. Chang said this study resulted from a number of residential developers coming in and a need to address challenges for the City and Public Works regarding centralized trash enclosures. He said these requirements should help facilitate and provide a template for developments and enclosure requirements.

Comm. Hungerford said he debated whether the centralized trash enclosure requirements should be guidelines or code requirements. He said staff gave a good answer and with the code referencing the guidelines in Attachment I that he thinks that will be adequate and allow some flexibility to make changes to the guidelines.

Comm. Sulser said he would not be supporting the motion. He said the guidelines in Attachment I are fabulous, however he thinks they should be included in the code.

Vice Chair Hendricks said he would be supporting the motion and that he thinks Attachment I is a good way to go, though he would like to see Option A from the report used.

ACTION: Comm. Chang made a motion on 2010-7125 to recommend to City Council to: adopt the Negative Declaration (Attachment B); introduce an ordinance amending Section 19.38.030 (Attachment J); and adopt the design requirements for trash storage/collection facilities (Attachment I). Comm. Hungerford seconded. Motion carried 6-1, with Comm. Sulser dissenting.

APPEAL OPTIONS: This item is scheduled to be considered by City Council at the October 12, 2010 City Council meeting.

Ms. Ryan said that the code requirement for how long a trash cart can be out on the street is a 54 hour period commencing at 12 a.m. on the day preceding the scheduled pick up day and terminating at 6 a.m. on the day following.