



**APPROVED MINUTES
SUNNYVALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 7:00 PM
West Conference Room, Sunnyvale City Hall
456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086**

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jeanine Stanek; Vice Chair David Squellati; Comm. Mark Johnson; Comm. Mike Michitaka; Comm. Dale Mouritsen; Comm. Nirmala Vaidyanathan

Absent: None

Staff Present: Ryan Kuchenig, Associate Planner; Joey Mariano, Senior Office Assistant

City Council Liaison: Mayor Tony Spitaleri

Members of the Public: Irene Murphy; Liam Balfe

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of July 10, 2013

Chair Stanek asked if there were any changes other than what was suggested by Comm. Vaidyanathan's email.

Comm. Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 10, 2013 as amended. Comm. Vaidyanathan seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Irene Murphy, Manager of Fibbar Magees, requested exemption from having to bring in their chairs and tables as they are heavy and it is also causing a security issue with their staff. She noted that they are different from all the other businesses located on Murphy Avenue, because they are open until 2:00 a.m., as they are a pub as well as a

restaurant. She noted that her staff that work at night for four out of the five days are female, and they have had instances of strange men watching them as they bring the outdoor furniture into the restaurant. She also noted that the chairs, tables, and umbrellas are too heavy for the staff to bring in. She noted that they were told that they could call the Department of Public Safety for security; however, she noted that it would be using taxpayer's money. She noted that the City cleans the sidewalk and requires them to move the outdoor furniture.

Comm. Mouritsen asked on which days they needed exemption.

Ms. Murphy said they are asking if they can leave the furniture outdoors every day.

Liam Balfe, owner of Fibbar Magee's, noted that his staff are there early morning, between 6:30 am and 7:30 am to clean their furniture and the sidewalk in front of their business. He asked the Commission if they can be allowed to leave their tables and chairs outside overnight.

Chair Stanek said that she did not think that this issue is in the Commission's purview.

Mr. Kuchenig reviewed the Murphy Avenue sidewalk regulations, and the Council Policy regarding outdoor seating. He also noted that this request would require a change to the adopted policy, and the Commission could decide to sponsor a study issue to review the regulations.

Comm. Johnson noted that he is aware of the furniture and that it is substantially heavier than the outdoor furniture of other businesses. He also noted that the City Council could consider giving them an exception.

Chair Stanek asked staff for clarification regarding sponsoring a study that revised the policy for outdoor seating.

Comm. Michitaka noted that if this is a safety issue; other parties should jointly sponsor a study issue for this concern.

Comm. Johnson asked if there were any staff concerns for leaving the furniture outside.

Mr. Kuchenig noted that the outdoor seating policies were created for several reasons, including safety, liability issues, as well as aesthetics.

Comm. Mouritsen asked Ms. Murphy if they had any issues with the City regarding the outdoor seating.

Ms. Murphy noted that they have been bringing the furniture inside every day, and that it is causing a hardship for their staff.

Vice Chair Squellati asked if they have tried to bring the furniture in earlier when there is more staff available.

Ms. Murphy responded that they have attempted to stagger staff schedules where there would be at least two staff present. She noted that their sales need to dictate one bartender during the hours of 10:00 pm and 2:00 am. They have tried different ways to find the solution within the business, and are in need of some help from the City.

Comm. Vaidyanathan clarified that this is generally a safety issue. She then asked if they have thought that it may be more of a safety issue if they left the furniture outside, as people may use the furniture when businesses are closed.

Ms. Murphy noted that they were thinking of chaining the furniture close together, as Mountain View requires.

Mr. Kuchenig mentioned that a potential study issue regarding the outdoor seating policy could be drafted. If the Heritage Preservation Commission does not sponsor the study, then a citizen or individual commissioners (as members of the public) may speak at the City Council meeting to request a study issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Discussion of Potential Study Issues for 2014

The Commission unanimously expressed support for a study to revisit the Murphy Avenue Sidewalk Use Regulations.

Mr. Kuchenig noted a possible study issue for updating the Murphy Avenue Design Guidelines.

Comm. Johnson noted that he originally wanted to add more guidelines to harmonize color, aside from the Munsell color system.

Comm. Michitaka asked if the guidelines would include the future expansion of Murphy Avenue. He also suggested including more objective criteria to the guidelines.

Comm. Johnson noted that he observed other cities having achieved more harmony as far as aesthetics are concerned.

Comm. Mouritsen noted that people like to feel that they are stepping back in time when visiting downtown areas, and that this should be one of the policies.

Comm. Johnson mentioned the historic district in Vancouver, and that Sunnyvale's downtown should be somewhat coordinated.

The Commission unanimously expressed support for a study issue to update the Murphy Avenue Design Guidelines.

Chair Stanek recalled a study about a "pedestrian only" zone on Historic Murphy Avenue.

Mr. Kuchenig pointed out that a pedestrian only study was not within this Commission's purview.

Comm. Johnson noted that the Wednesday music series on Murphy Avenue seems to draw many visitors while the street is closed to vehicular traffic.

Mayor Spitaleri responded that the idea and a study regarding closing Murphy Avenue to pedestrian traffic only was brought to the City Council in the past. He believes that it was sent back for more study, as the downtown area was undergoing construction, which was limiting pedestrians in the downtown area. He also noted that there was a concern for the business owners, not allowing cars to park in front of their store. He further noted that it might be a proper time to revisit this idea as more residents are coming to the downtown area.

Chair Stanek stated that any member of the public could attend a City Council meeting and ask for support for a study.

Comm. Johnson noted that study issue paper for CDD-12-02 (Possible Nomination of Non-Residential Properties to the Heritage Resource Inventory) was not what he intended.

Mr. Kuchenig responded that this previous study issue might not be able to be changed significantly. Comm. Johnson pointed out that the City's motto is "The Heart of Silicon Valley." He noted that there are important technological innovations that occurred in Sunnyvale, and if Sunnyvale is "The Heart of Silicon Valley", then these locations should be recognized.

Comm. Johnson requested that more pizzazz be added to this study paper in order to get it more support.

Mr. Kuchenig noted another study had been incorporated into this study, and that he will revisit the draft and see what changes can be made.

Chair Stanek noted that Valley Transportation Agencies Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) committee contacted her to see which buildings they wanted to be retained intact. She spoke on behalf of the Historical Society, and mentioned several sites, including the Historic District, and Rooster T. Feathers building.

Comm. Johnson described the book "Sunnyvale," by Jeff Goodell, which is about his life in Sunnyvale, and includes significant events in Silicon Valley.

Comm. Johnson explained that if you just moved into Silicon Valley and wanted to know about the history of the area, there is not much text available about the technological events that occurred.

Chair Stanek stated that there are currently three study issue write-ups, and urged the Commission to review and submit any revisions/modifications to staff.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- BOARD MEMBERS OR COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS

Chair Stanek noted the State of the City event.

Mayor Spitaleri announced the State of the City event this weekend, and that several food trucks representing several cultures are invited.

Chair Stanek asked if there will be an email blast, as she was approached by some members of the public regarding the event.

- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

Mr. Kuchenig noted that he would update the Commission of a possible special meeting on October 9, which may include a project to revise the original Goodwill building site application for façade changes.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.