

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULVER CITY  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 12, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Barba announced that at least a portion of the meeting would be conducted pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953 in that Commissioner Menthe was participating via Webex in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and his teleconference location was identified in the notice for the meeting and the agenda.

Chair Barba called the regular meeting of the Culver City Planning Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and via Webex.

Present: Nancy Barba, Chair  
Jennifer Carter, Commissioner  
Stephen Jones, Commissioner  
Darrel Menthe, Commissioner  
Andrew Reilman, Commissioner

Darrel Menthe joined the meeting remotely via teleconference from 1626 Skyline Drive, Springfield, Vermont, 05156 USA.

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Ruth Martin del Campo, Administrative Clerk, received clarification from Commissioner Menthe that he could hear the meeting clearly; he had a copy of the agenda for the meeting; a copy of the agenda was posted at his location; there were no members of the public present and wanting to speak at his location; she asked any member of the Commission to speak up if they were not able to hear Commissioner Menthe and no Commissioner indicated that they could not hear Commissioner Menthe, nor did they indicate that there was any reason to doubt that was Commissioner Menthe taking part in the teleconference; and she indicated that all votes would be taken by roll call during the meeting.

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Barba led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda**

Chair Barba invited public comment.

Ruth Martin del Campo, Administrative Clerk, indicated that no requests to speak had been received.

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**Presentations**

Item P-1

**PC - Presentation: Appreciation of Vice Chair Ed Ogosta and Prior Commissioner David Voncannon for Service on the Planning Commission**

Erika Ramirez, Current Planning Manager, announced that David Voncannon was not able to be present, but Commissioners were encouraged to share any comments which would be recorded and presented to Mr. Voncannon.

Mark Muenzer, Planning and Development Director, discussed accomplishments of Ed Ogosta and expressed appreciation for his service to the City.

Ed Ogosta discussed his appointment to the Commission 8 years ago; the service of Scott Wyant; the kindness of all involved and the privilege of serving; transformative projects in the City; Culver City as a forward-thinking creative hub, well prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century; appreciation for the patience of staff and Commissioners on the importance of good architecture and design; the purpose of buildings; weighing decisions against ideals; deciding how they want to live; judging what is good and what isn't good enough; the importance of aiming higher and asking more of buildings and cities; the need for high quality, durable buildings that last and use energy smarter; having policy less shaped by profit and real

estate speculation; being more considerate of the community; he felt that buildings should spark joy; noted that buildings endure through time because they are loved; he hoped to have left an imprint on the Commission; he stated the most rewarding part of the experience was the people; discussed growth through disagreement and discussion; compromise yielding better outcomes; wrestling with tough decisions; overlooked items; appreciation for the intelligence, passion, honor and commitment to the City by Commissioners and staff; he welcomed Commissioner Menthe; and he thanked staff, Commissioners and his wife.

Commissioners thanked Ed Ogosta for his service; felt that his comments rang true; expressed appreciation for other perspectives and things learned from Mr. Ogosta; acknowledged the gravity of decisions made; discussed recent Brown Act training; appreciation for buildings designed by Mr. Ogosta and for insights he brought to the Commission; the feeling that Mr. Ogosta improved each project; appreciation for Mr. Ogosta's welcoming nature; and appreciation for Mr. Ogosta's knowledge of architecture and planning, as well as for his integrity and commitment to the City.

Chair Barba invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Dana Sayles, former Planning Commissioner, discussed former Commissioners Scott Wyant and Linda Smith Frost; health challenges faced by David Voncannon; the role of Ed Ogosta on the Commission to ensure that the quality of projects did not suffer and to challenge everyone to do better; the hard work of Ed Ogosta; his focus on the project rather than on politics; his role as the voice of reason; continuing the legacy of Scott Wyant; the need for City Council recognition of the value of having an architect on the Commission; she asserted that inspirational buildings would not continue in the City unless there is a voice that stands up for design; she discussed going beyond the numbers; getting to the final project; she hoped that nuggets of Mr. Ogosta's knowledge continue with the Commission; she expressed regret at not being able to be present; and appreciation for being able to serve with Mr. Ogosta for most of his term.

Erika Ramirez, Current Planning Manager, read a letter into the record from former Community Development Director Sol

Blumenfeld expressing appreciation for the extraordinary accomplishments of Ed Ogosta and David Voncannon.

Mark Muenzer, Planning and Development Director, presented Ed Ogosta with a gift from the City in appreciation for his service.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Ruth Martin del Campo, Administrative Clerk, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**PC - Approval of Draft Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2023**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER REILMAN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JONES THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVE THE DRAFT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2023.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BARBA, CARTER, JONES, REILMAN  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: MENTHE

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**PC - (1) Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair; and (2) Selection of the Committee Members**

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the traditional rotation and Commissioner terms.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER REILMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARTER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINT STEPHEN JONES TO SERVE AS CHAIR AND ANDREW REILMAN TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR 2023-2024.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding preferences for Committees to serve on.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BARBA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARTER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION MAKE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

1. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT: VICE CHAIR REILMAN AND COMMISSIONER MENTHE; AND,
2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE: COMMISSIONER BARBA AS PRIMARY AND COMMISSIONER CARTER AS ALTERNATE.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Jones invited public comment.

Ruth Martin del Campo, Administrative Clerk, indicated that no requests to speak had been received.

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**Items from Planning Commissioners/Staff**

Susan Herbertson, Senior Planner, clarified the date of Vice Chair Reilman's appointment to the Commission noting that his term would end on June 30, 2025.

Erika Ramirez, Current Planning Manager, indicated that the next Planning Commission meeting would be held on August 23

with announcements regarding zoning code amendments made at that meeting; discussed outreach efforts at Fiesta La Ballona; objective design standards; and consideration of ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) prototypes in October.

Mark Muenzer, Planning and Development Director, reported that the City Council had appointed Council Members O'Brien and Puza to a General Plan Ad Hoc Committee to work with staff as elements of the General Plan are finalized.

Commissioner Barba offered to join the table at Fiesta La Ballona if that would be helpful.

Erika Ramirez, Current Planning Manager, indicated that they were still planning the details of the outreach and would be in touch.

Commissioner Reilman indicated willingness to participate in the Fiesta La Ballona outreach.

Commissioner Menthe expressed eagerness to join everyone in person next month.

Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Menthe to the Commission.

Chair Jones proposed adjourning the meeting in honor of former Commissioners Ogosta and Voncannon.

Commissioner Reilman noted that Juliettes and articulation were the words of the day in honor of Ed Ogosta.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:52 p.m., the Culver City Planning Commission adjourned in honor of former Commissioners Ed Ogosta and David Voncannon to a regular meeting on August 23, 2023.

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RUTH MARTIN DEL CAMPO  
SECRETARY of the CULVER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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STEPHEN JONES  
CHAIR of the CULVER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

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Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

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Date