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

November 13, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

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

Present: Andrew Reilman, Chair
Darrel Menthe, Vice Chair
Jen Carter, Commissioner
Stephen Jones, Commissioner

o0o

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Reilman led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked that the meeting be held in honor of World Day of Kindness.

o0o

The following item was considered out of sequence.

Receipt of Correspondence

Ruth Martin del Campo, Current Planning Secretary, reported that correspondence had been received and distributed to Commissioners and staff.

Chair Reilman noted that it was difficult when a large amount of email is received an hour before the meeting, and he encouraged those wishing to actively participate in the process to come and be heard, and if they cannot be present, to submit their email earlier.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARTER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

o0o

Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Chair Reilman invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Christian May-Suzuki reported recently launching the Culver Crescent to provide a more fair and in-depth news source in Culver City; he indicated that he would like to serve as a resource; thanked Vice Chair Menthe for meeting with him; and he was looking forward to working with everyone.

Steve Siegel requested input from the Planning Commission regarding outreach; discussed better informing residents to improve the process; those who were unaware of efforts to remove the paddle tennis courts at Elenda; contacting interested parties; things that junk up Culver City west of Overland; the proposed frontage road on Culver; the bike lane on Elenda north of Culver; and removing trees on Culver west of Overland to install a bike lane.

Chair Reilman discussed public involvement; calendared meetings; public announcements that go out with an agenda; parks outreach; issues that have been going on for years with repeated efforts to reach out; and he encouraged those who are interested to seek out information rather than waiting for someone to knock on their door.

o0o

Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Draft Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2024

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR MENTHE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JONES AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVE THE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

o0o

Order of the Agenda

Receipt of Correspondence was done before Public Comment – Items NOT on the Agenda.

o0o

Action Items

Item A-1

Consideration of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department's Parks Plan

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, provided a summary of the material of record.

Jessica Henson, OLIN, provided a presentation on the Parks Master Plan; discussed the schedule; public engagement; the process; draft vision; draft recommendations; the General Plan; work on water and infrastructure; project coordination; communication with other City bodies and groups; survey participation; park usage; positive feedback; things that need to be improved; qualitative feedback collected; the Needs Analysis; the Opportunity Analysis; potential partnerships; equity; SB1000 priority neighborhoods; walkability; ecology and resilience; identification of needs; opportunity zones; areas that are set to expand; system and site scale recommendations; the draft vision and mission; site specific ideas; and changes made based upon public feedback.

Chair Reilman invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Jeanne Black indicated that she did not wish to speak.

Steve Siegel expressed appreciation for the plan; discussed outreach; the need for outreach specific to the affected neighborhoods to allow for additional public engagement; support for retaining the successful paddle tennis courts on Elenda; concern that a building would deaden the area; the proposed parking garage at Vets; concern with unhoused individuals; keeping baseball diamonds where they are at Lindberg and Veterans Park; and appreciation to staff for meeting with him.

Lisa Ogami discussed removal of Carlson Park play area #5; the petition she started and information gathered over the last 48 hours; and she read comment 119 out of 190 from a five-year-old about Carlson Park.

Chair Reilman received clarification that a copy of the petition and comments had been submitted to staff.

Vic Maidment was pleased that the play structure at Carlson Park had been dropped; noted that Carlson Park was a passive park; she stated that the natural state was the sensory playground; expressed support for crosswalks and stop signs to be added to Motor and Braddock along with additional benches and trashcans; discussed replacement of trees where necessary; the tree canopy; providing open space to run; and she asserted that the Carlson Park should be kept passive.

Mark Warwick provided background on himself; expressed appreciation to staff for outreach; discussed awareness of the item; appreciation for realizing that Carlson Park should be kept a passive park; support for OLIN; and he hoped that everyone would read the comments collected by Lisa Ogami.

Palvi Mohammed, Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commissioner, speaking on behalf of himself, expressed appreciation for Planning Commission consideration of the item; discussed the importance of community outreach; support for outreach work by OLIN; continued receipt of public comment and adjustments being made; and putting a plan in place that the majority of the community is happy with.

Meg Sullivan provided background on herself; was pleased to see the acknowledgement that additional property needed to be acquired as Culver City grows; discussed identification of opportunities; disappointment that the land flanking the Expo Line Bike Path was not mentioned; need identified on the north end of the Hayden Tract; valuable land on the other side of the fence from Syd Kronenthal Park; the mini park developed by the Platform people under the Expo Line overpass; and exploration of other opportunities heading east.

Alicia Ide provided background on herself, indicated speaking in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Culver Arts Foundation; discussed communication with OLIN to ensure that the plans included significant arts improvements; founding of Culver City on the creative economy; acknowledgement of the arts as equally important as sports and recreation to mental health

and wellbeing; lack of arts facilities in Culver City; and the importance of reminding everyone that has a voice in the process that the arts should be included in the planning process.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Henson, staff, and Commissioners regarding the parks pressure map; the decision to include parkettes; the park shed; new development; the need for additional parkland in the areas undergoing the most change; adjustments that can be made; accommodating the new population; openness to additional dialogue; clarification that only Culver City residents are included; use by non-Culver City residents; the county Park Needs Assessment; consistency with how the region is thinking; acknowledgement that PRCS is already serving a population greater than the population of Culver City; pressure on Fox Hills and Culver West; Tellefson; the Clarkdale area; density; SB1000 neighborhoods; and appreciation for comments about the Expo Line.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the significant number of large mixed use developments under consideration City-wide; the pre-application phase; the use of paseos and publicly accessible space on private development sites; the nuanced conversation; housing developments; the ability of Culver City to purchase land; opportunities with the Specific Plan and with individual development applications; in lieu fees; working to make spaces active; the Platform Park; private events; and ensuring that private space feels public.

Further discussion ensued between Ms. Henson, staff, and Commissioners regarding the proposed parking garages at Vets Park; retention of the trees; proposed land usage; design; security for the parking garage; people who currently live in the parking area; the current security guard; procedures for existing public parking lots; Creek connectivity; financial constraints used in drawing up the plan; feasibility studies done for Veterans and Culver City Park; cost estimates associated with draft ideas; prioritization; feedback reflecting a lack of appetite to raise taxes; bonds; other opportunities; storm water projects; upgrading parks while storm water infrastructure goes in; City Council policy decisions; funds for impacted neighborhoods; having information available to apply for grants; identification of opportunities; feasibility studies referenced in the Parks Plan; arts improvements; bring arts to different parks; work

with local artists to place art in the parks; having a public process to go through each park; outreach in August and September; consideration at the Disability Advisory Committee and the PRCS Commission; park by park feedback; the web interface; email received; interest in specific parks; gaining the attention of the public with a public hearing; outreach and opportunity for public comment; the idea that a public hearing is needed in order to get people to show up; the feeling that the public forum has been provided; recognition of the need for more tree planting in SB1000 neighborhoods; the community room at Culver West Park; spreading arts opportunities to smaller parks; support for seeing baseball diamonds in more locations; support for pocket parks along the Expo Line and into the Arts District; and encouragement to the public to visit the Culver City website to look at the draft plan.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding public outreach; targeted outreach; getting people's attention; taking criticism to heart; the small number of comments received for Tellefson Park; outreach through schools; support for the work done; appreciation for effort put into the document, identification of needs, and public comment taken into consideration; support for the process; projections of a 50% increase to the population; the park system designed in the 1950s and 1960s; the need for incorporation of the Feasibility Studies; showing people what the options are; ensuring that the documents are not at odds with each other; scientific surveys; residents who are most likely to participate in surveys; important park consumers who do not have a voice; the fact that often people do not pay attention until they see something that bothers them; understanding that improvements sometimes mean taking away the thing they like; advantages to leaving things alone; going through the plan park by park; addressing issues; encouragement to the public to reach out to Commissioners before meetings; and Commissioners as present to represent the community.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR MENTHE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION: RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S PARKS PLAN.

o0o

(1) Discussion of Draft Written Report to City Council Regarding Planning Commission's Accomplishments and Proposed Activity/Upcoming Agenda Items for the Next Six Months; (2) Authorize Transmittal to City Council

Emily Stadnicki, Current Planning Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Mark Muenzer, Planning and Development Director, discussed the upcoming Specific Plan processes; consultants hired; study sessions as part of the contract scope; the community process; and the proposed schedule.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the feeling that the Commission can do as much as staff presents to them; the importance of getting the public out; the summary of total units and total affordable units; and support for consideration of Objective Design Standards and City-wide Density Bonus Ordinances in January, the Subdivision Ordinance in February, and the TDM (Transportation Demand Management) Ordinance.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JONES SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR MENTHE, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROPOSED ACTIVITY REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

o0o

Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Reilman invited public comment.

Ruth Martin del Campo, Current Planning Secretary, reported no requests to speak.

o0o

Items from Planning Commissioners/Staff

Emily Stadnicki, Current Planning Manager, indicated the next meeting would be held at the Senior Center on January 22, 2025, with a full agenda.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners resulting in staff agreement to let the City Clerk know that the Commission would like to see the empty Commission seat filled as soon as possible.

o0o

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:40 p.m., the Culver City Planning Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on January 22, 2025.

o0o

_____

RUTH MARTIN DEL CAMPO
SECRETARY of the CULVER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

APPROVED _____

_____

ANDREW REILMAN
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.

_____ _____

Jeremy Bocchino Date
CITY CLERK