

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL  
UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 24, 2019  
5:00 p.m.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Present: Thomas Small, Mayor\*  
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Vice Mayor  
Göran Eriksson, Council Member  
Alex Fisch, Council Member  
Daniel Lee, Council Member

\*Mayor Small participated via telephone from the  
Mayflower Hotel, Room 648, 1127 Connecticut Avenue  
NW, Washington, DC 20036

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells announced that the consolidated City Council meeting would be conducted pursuant to California Government Code 54953 in that Mayor Small would be participating by speaker phone and in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act his teleconference location has been identified on the agenda and notice for the meeting.

Gabby Monzon, City Clerk Specialist, read a list of questions, all of which were answered affirmatively, to ensure that Mayor Small was participating in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act; she received clarification that there was no one present for public comment at his location; clarification that Mayor Small could hear the meeting clearly, and that all Council Members could hear him; clarification that no Council Member expressed doubt that Mayor Small was the person participating in the teleconference; and she indicated that all votes taken for the meeting would be taken by roll call.

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keith Jeffreys.

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**Community Announcements by City Council Members/Information  
Items from Staff**

Mayor Small reported that it was cold in Washington D.C. and that he was missing the reception at the Canadian Embassy to be present for the meeting.

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells announced a ribbon cutting ceremony in Culver City Park on January 25 to celebrate the Ballona Creek Connection Project as part of the Park to Playa Project

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**Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda**

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Receipt and Filing of Correspondence**

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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## Action Items

### Item A-1

#### **CC - Interviews with the Raimi + Associates and Interface Studio Teams for General Plan Update (GPU) Services in Response to Request for Proposals (RFP) #1802**

Ashley Hefner, Advance Planning Manager, thanked those involved in the process; discussed the plan for presentations; and she introduced the first team.

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells asked the Clerk to keep time for the presentations.

The Interface Studio team provided background on the firm; discussed jobs vs. growth in Culver City; challenges with the General Plan; relating the numbers with day-to-day experiences; integrating all the issues; the importance of public input; the fact that not changing is not an option; things to protect in the City; finding balance; managing success; the importance of building partnerships; generating interest in General Plan events; building excitement; the public process; public engagement; taking a non-traditional approach; and work with Hear L.A.

Amber Hawkes, Hear L.A., provided background on the company; discussed strategic planning efforts; artful, creative outreach; linking conversations with ideas presented in the General Plan; having the community build an interactive art sculpture to illicit feedback; the focus on beauty and quality; and balancing equity with change.

The Interface Studio team continued the presentation and discussed engagement; Culver City as a City of Kindness; providing inclusive, healthy spaces; landscape architecture; working within existing open spaces; reinvigorating underused spaces; making transformational changes; the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) team; preparing a legally defensible and flexible document; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); streamlining provisions; the Inglewood Oil Field; Ballona Creek; natural, architectural and historic resources; hazardous material considerations; environmental justice communities; transportation, traffic, and mobility concerns; land use; evaluating and understanding the data; market potential; financial stability; relative industries; housing affordability; coordinating with regional entities; transit

oriented communities; opportunities to capture funds; the General Fund; identification of subdistricts; economic drivers; linkages to land use and transportation; ways to shift the way linkages have occurred in the past; state mandates; disruptive change; listening to the community; understanding goals and objectives; building upon work already done by Culver City; ensuring seamless interface; Vision Zero; curbside management; improving productivity; shared mobility; implementation; ensuring success; priorities; goals; compromise; milestones; designing deliverables; online engagement; materials to engage different audiences; and the need to embrace the possibilities as change is inevitable.

Discussion ensued between the Interface Studio team and Council Members regarding integrating equity into all aspects of the plan; previous work done by Interface Studio; sustainability; approach and philosophy; preconceived notions; identifying community ambassadors; fact-gathering and qualitative analysis; tracking progress; one-on-one stakeholder meetings; identification of stakeholders; the schedule; objectivity; having a realistic conversation about where the market is going to work; graduated density; growth and economic cycles; innovative ways to manage changes; working with the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC); defining goals; helping members understand the level of input they will have in the process; ensuring that the GPAC is an authentic voice for the City; creating a statement of work and expectations; commitment necessary; level of detail; engagement and commitment to the process; putting policies in place in time to address necessary issues; the community choice aggregation model; reinvesting in the community; capturing value and benefits; infrastructure funding and financing; projected shortfalls in the budget; engaging the business community in the General Plan process; balancing revenue stream vs. costs; and transparency.

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells thanked the Interface Studio team for their work and for the presentation.

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### **Recess/Reconvene**

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells called a brief recess from 6:32 p.m. to 7:06 p.m. and reiterated that Mayor Small was participating via remote telephone call from Washington D.C.

Mayor Small indicated that he could hear what was being said at the meeting.

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Item A-1  
(Continued)

**CC - Interviews with the Raimi + Associates and Interface Studio Teams for General Plan Update (GPU) Services in Response to Request for Proposals (RFP) #1802**

Matt Raimi, Raimi and Associates, introduced his team and discussed their functions; discussed the mission of the City as he understood it; provided background on the company; discussed roles and responsibilities of the team; changes to California planning laws; software; community engagement; health; equity; sustainability; climate change; priorities; identifying engagement activities appropriate for different segments of the community; advisory committees; and solution groups.

Hillary Moglen, Rally Communications, discussed messaging and communications; their approach; the process; and she provided examples of work done.

David Plettner-Saunders, Cultural Planning Group, discussed the creative sector as a defining characteristic of the City; the 2017 Creative Economy Report; comparisons with other cities; identification of growth opportunities; strengthening ties between the creative sector and City government; engaging creative individuals in the planning process; using the arts to solve real world problems; incorporating creative approaches to the engagement process; integrating arts and culture into elements of the General Plan; and updating the 2003 Cultural Plan in addition to the Cultural Element of the General Plan.

Karen Alschuler, Perkins + Will, discussed the power of design; ensuring that things in the plan can be built; bringing opportunities to life; the interview process; the housing exercise; assessing challenges; thinking of the City as a whole; looking at districts and transformations; placemaking; identification of opportunities; she provided examples of projects done by Perkins + Will; and discussed Destination Crenshaw.

Paul Moore, Nelson\Nygaard, provided background on the company; discussed the mobility portion of the project; the importance of changing the dialogue around traffic and development; proximity to transit; micro-transit pilots with LA Metro; first and last mile; thinking about moving people, not just cars; safety; the employment district; employer responsibility; and using policy ideas that are working in other areas.

Eric Yurkovich, Raimi and Associates, discussed previous work by the organization on equity, health and sustainability; health assessment; policy development; infusing health and equity into climate and sustainability work; resiliency; localized impacts; connecting climate vulnerability, health disparities and environmental justice burdens; identification of objectives; defining solutions; pushing forward ambitious climate action plans; the partnership between the community and City staff; fostering a culture of climate action in the General Plan; lessons learned; creating an effective visual display; establishing priorities; providing a framework for decision making; and tools to measure success.

Matt Raimi, Raimi and Associates, discussed innovation; engagement; health; equity; climate change; sustainability; plan implementation; and reasons why Raimi and Associates is the right team for the job.

Discussion ensued between the Raimi and Associates team and Council Members regarding whether the General Plan should be focused on the people living in the City now or in the future; the engagement process; resistance to change; incremental steps; thresholds; anticipating within limitations of available data; public space resources; trigger points; identifying areas of change and areas of stability; tools to facilitate meetings; acknowledging people's feelings; engaging more than just regular meeting attendees; understanding how people get information; custom communication methods; understanding how networks within the community communicate; asset mapping; incorporating the business community into the process; collaboration with Strategic Economics; flexibility and the changing process over time; how the consultants plan to work with the GPAC; balancing collaboration with Los Angeles and Culver City interests; handling cut-through traffic through design; ensuring a network for cyclists in the community; managing growth to be in character with the community despite what is

happening around the City; the County Sustainability Plan; The Clean Power Alliance; how the consultants can help City efforts to wean off of fossil fuels; local air quality monitoring; augmenting the work of the Air Quality Management District; increasingly rigorous setbacks from sensitive uses; using land use and environmental policy to push toward long term objectives; impacts of infrastructure on the community; conversations about trade-offs; and addressing concerns of those who live in Culver City but have a Los Angeles address.

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells thanked the consultants for their presentation and the public for their attendance.

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

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Items from Council Members**

None.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:25 p.m., the City Council adjourned to a meeting to be held on January 28, 2019.

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Jeremy Green  
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California  
Culver City, California

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THOMAS SMALL  
MAYOR of Culver City, California