

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL
UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

September 24, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Sahli-Wells called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 6:16 p.m. in the Senior Center Conference.

Present: Meghan Sahli-Wells, Mayor
Alex Fisch, Council Member
Daniel Lee, Council Member
Thomas Small, Council Member

Absent: Göran Eriksson, Vice Mayor

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dan O'Brien.

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

None.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Michael Stivers discussed concern with transparency within the survey being used online; referring to "parcels to the west" rather than the specifying the community garden, the Scout House and the paddle tennis court; he questioned the definition of the term "affordable housing"; discussed inadequacy of the ranking choices; and he expressed concern with using the survey to make the decision.

Mayor Sahli-Wells clarified that a vote would not be taken at the meeting; residents could provide input with plenty of room for items that have not yet come up; and she indicated that the process would be explained.

Steve Hadland, Culver City Observer, questioned why the City Council meeting was not being held in Council Chambers or broadcast live.

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Order of the Agenda

Receipt and Filing of Correspondence was heard during Action Item A-1.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CC - (1) Community Meeting to Discuss and Receive Public Input Regarding Potential Use of City Property at 10858 Culver Boulevard; and (2) Direction to the City Manager as Deemed Appropriate

Mayor Sahli-Wells indicated that the meeting was meant to be a community conversation; noted that the meeting was being held to discuss possibilities for a public property and was being filmed; she discussed meeting format; the importance of the issue; the process; table conversations; adding to the discussion; providing an opportunity for the community to talk about possibilities together; she clarified that the meeting was the beginning of the process and that the City Council would not be taking a vote; noted the importance of providing an open and transparent process; limited City property available; and she introduced the meeting facilitator.

Liza Taylor, Facilitator Consultant, discussed meeting procedures; presentations; and allowing a chance for everyone to participate.

Elaine Warner, Economic Development Project Manager, explained how to use the Poll Everywhere software.

Mayor Sahli-Wells noted that this was the beginning of the process and that there would be multiple opportunities and methods to provide input.

Sandy Bleifer, Projects Linking Arts Community and Environment (PLACE), provided background on the organization; discussed affordable housing for artists; criteria; designated categories; projects in other cities; supportive housing for people transitioning out of homelessness; and environmental sustainability.

William Taylor thanked the Mayor and the City Council for the meeting and process; discussed providing an information center; work with the Sustainable Building Council; temporary structures; and flexible usage.

Discussion ensued between audience members and Mr. Taylor regarding usage of the parcel; sustainability; concern with tearing down a functional building; and opportunities for dialogue.

Patricia Rhee, Ehrlich Yanai Rhee Architects, discussed combining parcels; maximizing square footage; and potential configurations and usages.

Justin Jampol presented a joint proposal for a community center from the Mayme Clayton Museum, the Wende Museum and the United States Veterans Artists Alliance which are all Culver City based non-profit charities.

Steven Fisher, Mayme Clayton Museum, discussed their fight to maintain their space in Culver City; continuity; diversity and inclusion; and support of non-profits.

Venessa Baumann, Veterans Services, provided background on the organization and indicated that she did not have a plan for the space but was available to questions.

Liza Taylor, Facilitator Consultant, explained the World Café meeting format and indicated that the presenters would be available at tables around the room to answer questions.

Meeting attendees circulated around to various tables from 7:15 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.

Liza Taylor, Facilitator Consultant, asked attendees to vote for various options being presented.

Elaine Warner, Economic Development Project Manager, clarified procedures and survey questions.

Todd Tipton, Economic Development Manager, discussed other ideas that had not been considered including using the parcel as a skatepark, a dog park, senior affordable housing, refurbishing what is currently there, and commercial neighborhood use in accordance with the zoning.

Liza Taylor, Facilitator Consultant, indicated that the last poll allowed participants to indicate other ideas that had not been proposed.

Mayor Sahli-Wells noted that the meeting was the beginning of the process; discussed the length of the process; thanked those who participated in the meeting and provided input; and she discussed other options and opportunities for residents to participate.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

Mayor Sahli-Wells reported that email correspondence had been distributed to Council Members and she encouraged residents to keep email and input coming.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FISCH AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FISCH, LEE, SAHLI-WELLS, SMALL

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: ERIKSSON

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Item A-1
(Continued)

CC - (1) Community Meeting to Discuss and Receive Public Input Regarding Potential Use of City Property at 10858 Culver Boulevard; and (2) Direction to the City Manager as Deemed Appropriate

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Bryan Sanders provided background on himself and expressed concern with a lack of communication noting that he had not heard about any of the community input workshops held by the Wende Museum.

Khin Khin Gyi, California Democratic Party Delegate, discussed the Surplus Public Land Act; the system of prioritization; and she asked that the land be used for affordable housing.

Donna Kent expressed support for the efforts of the City and the Wende Museum to be transparent; noted a bit of chaos in the process; expressed appreciation for the presentation; and she indicated that she would write down her ideas and provide them to the City Council.

Dan O'Brien expressed support for the Wende proposal and for providing affordable community housing but felt there was a greater opportunity for the community by utilizing wasted parking spaces in parks.

Steve Seigel noted that adjacent residents would be forming a committee as they are the most impacted; he felt there was opportunity for more ideas; he encouraged interested parties to contact him through Todd Tipton; and he reported speaking to nearby residents who indicated that they were not interested in housing on the site but rather were in favor of keeping the parcels as they are.

Denise C. Neal expressed support for a hybrid center incorporating the Wende Plan with supportive services and housing for a variety of groups.

Jessica Cattelino was looking forward to the conversation; expressed support for creative ideas; wanted to see a mixed use facility; she indicated that she lives nearby and supports housing; and she reported that her children had been to many going away parties for classmates who had lost their housing and were forced to leave the City and the School District.

Tom Wilson expressed support for the Wende proposal and for their process; he suggested looking at all properties held by the City; and he reported that Upward Bound was in communication to be part of the Wende facility and provide services to keep people in their homes.

Carolyn Allport provided background on herself; discussed services provided to veterans; and she expressed support for the area being a hub and resource for the community.

Ron Bassilian noted the shortage of parks in the area and he felt that converting parkland into housing would set a dangerous precedent.

Mark Galanty wanted public space kept for public use rather than becoming a private entity; he discussed the actions of Los Angeles; and he noted that once public space is lost, it is hard to get back.

John Wahlert noted that the proposed facility is 55 feet from his back door; provided background on his experience with the different uses; and he expressed support for the Wende proposal.

Pulkit Manocha discussed the number of people who sleep outside in Culver City; he felt that the property should be used for transitional housing; discussed the need for facilities; use of the space by the Wende Museum; and more efficient use of space.

Paula Wilson reported living behind the paddle tennis courts; expressed compassion for those who experience homelessness; noted that if she thought the location would be a proper location for housing she would support it; reported a large number of accidents at the intersection; did not recommend adding more traffic; and she asked that a traffic survey be conducted before any action is taken.

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited additional input.

No speakers came forward and no cards were received.

Mayor Sahli-Wells encouraged attendees to spread the word noting that the City sought additional input; she provided contact information for Todd Tipton; and she discussed the notification process.

Todd Tipton, Economic Development Manager, discussed the notification process for the meeting.

Discussion ensued between Council Members regarding encouragement to meeting attendees to provide their email addresses in order to receive future notifications; clarification that the Wende Museum meetings were separate from the City; ensuring that a full conversation is being held and options are being explored together; long-term leases; the importance of public use; support for the public turnout for the meeting; bringing the meeting closer to the location in question; ensuring that conversations that affect people are near them; appreciation to staff for their work; encouragement to residents to stay engaged in the process; and clarification that proposals have not been requested yet.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

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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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:26 p.m., the City Council adjourned to October 14, 2019.

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Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CLERK of the City Council
Culver City, California

MEGHAN SAHLI-WELLS
MAYOR of Culver City, California

Date: _____