



TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023
701 East Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745
City Hall, Helen Kawagoe Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION

Members: Interim Chair: Dianne Thomas Vice Chair: Louie Diaz Frederick Docdocil
Carlos Guerra Del Huff Jaime Monteclaro
Karimu Rashad Richard Hernandez

Alternates: DeQuita Mfume Leticia Wilson

Staff: Planning Manager: Christopher Palmer
Planning Secretary: Laura Gonzalez
Assistant City Attorney: Benjamin Jones

“In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call the Planning Department at 310-952-1761 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.” (Government Code Section 54954.2)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Thomas Called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Mfume led the Salute to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

Planning Commissioners Present: Docdocil, Guerra, Huff, Rashad, Wilson, Mfume, Rashad (L)

Planning Commissioners Absent: Hernandez, Diaz, Monteclaro

Planning Staff Present: Planning Manager Palmer, Senior Planner Alexander, Assistant Planner Garcia, Assistant City Attorney Jones, Planning Secretary Gonzalez

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A) Site Plan and Design Review (DOR) No. 1921-22

Applicant's Request:

Consider finding a CEQA exemption and approval of a Site Plan and Design Review No. 1921-22 for a proposed addition to a single-family residence on a 40-foot-wide lot located at 311 W. 223rd.

Staff Report and Recommendation:

Assistant Planner Richard Garcia presented the staff report and the recommendation to ADOPT Resolution No. 23-2853, entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CARSON FINDING A CEQA EXEMPTION AND APPROVING SITE PLAN AND DESIGN REVIEW NO. 1921-22 FOR A PROPOSED ADDITION TO SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING ON A 40-FOOT-WIDE LOT AT 311 W. 223RD STREET."

Interim Chair Thomas opened the public hearing.

Leida Perez – Thank you for having me here tonight. I appreciate the City of Carson and the committee. My name is Leida Perez I am the owner of the property. I am asking the city to please consider my application and approve it. Thank you.

Aydee Carolina Abrego-Pineda (applicant) – Good Evening Commissioners and Planners of this board. I am here to represent Leida Perez and I am here to support the project DOR No. 1921-22. This project is consistent with the architectural design of the neighborhood. The whole purpose is to make a master bedroom is to create a more comfortable living space, so it will not feel like living in a tiny home. Overall, it will create a healthier environment. Please imagine living in a house with limited space. I am kindly requesting planning Commissioners to approve this project to beautify and allow this family to enjoy living in the house.

Interim Chair Thomas closed the public hearing.

Planning Commission Decision:

Commissioner Guerra moved, seconded by Commissioner Rashad, to approve staff's recommendation, thus approving Resolution No. 23-2853. Motion Passed, 7-0.

B) Sign Program No. 34-23 – Rascal’s Teriyaki Grill Restaurant

Applicant’s Request:

Consider finding a CEQA exemption and approval of Sign Program (SPG) No. 34-23 for approval of proposed signage deviations to the Mixed-Use – Carson Street (MU-CS) zone pursuant to Carson Municipal Code (CMC) Section 9138.17.

Staff Report and Recommendation

Senior planner McKina Alexander presented the staff report and the recommendation to ADOPT Resolution No. 23-2852, entitled, “A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CARSON FINDING A CEQA EXEMPTION AND APPROVAL OF SIGN PROGRAM (SPG) NO. 34-23 FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SIGNAGE WITH DEVIATIONS TO THE MU-CS (MIXED-USE – CARSON STREET) ZONE PURSUANT TO CARSON MUNICIPAL CODE (CMC) SECTION 9138.17 FOR A PROPOSED RASCALS TERIYAKI GRILL RESTAURANT AT 205 E. CARSON STREET.”

Commissioner Guerra – Did we consult with a light illumination’s specialist regarding this? I am glad we had the advice of the traffic engineer. But I am just wondering if someone else was consulted as it relates to the sign potential being a distraction. Because some signs are made to grab attention. I love this project; I am just concerned about the size and if it would in fact create a hazard.

Senior Planner Alexander – No, there was not a professional sign illumination’s specialist to review in terms of the illumination. We do rely on our past practices and our own professional experience with reviewing signage. In this case, it is proposing a back lit halo illumination which is not that bright blaring type of signage. In addition, we also consult with the traffic engineer to ensure this proposed type of signage would not impact the traffic in terms of how it is being presented and designed. We did not do that for this project. If the signage was flashing, then absolutely. We would be concern if they weren’t prosing some sort of backlit lighting. We would have asked them to provide some sort of additional information to substantiate that it wasn’t going to impact traffic.

Planning Manager Palmer – I would just like to add that this type of sign is permissible already in the municipal code. We do have a list of prohibited signs that will be potentially distracting which is why they are prohibited. Because this sign is permissible, we did not consult with an illumination expert on this project.

Commissioner Guerra – I appreciate that response.

Interim Chair Thomas opened the public hearing.

Phil Kiyokane – Good Evening Commissioners. I am very excited to open a shop here in the City of Carson. Hoping to be open in August.

Interim Chair Thomas closed the public hearing.

Planning Commission Decision:

Commissioner Wilson moved, seconded by Commissioner Guerra, to approve staff's recommendation, thus approving Resolution No. 23-2852. Motion Passed, 7-0.

8. MANAGER'S REPORT

Planning Manager Palmer – In your packets you probably saw there are two different versions of the staff report. The first staff report that was presented by Richard is the old version. We are transitioning from that to the new version, which is what McKina presented. I am open to feedback, but we feel this new version is more informative. It gives you some information right up front and a lot of details to support the findings. You will start to see the new staff report going forward.

9. COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Wilson – Good evening and congratulations to all the applicants. It is great to be here. On Thursday, we have the Mayor's State of the City Address. I am looking forward to being there and of course hope to see everybody there. This is an exciting time for the City of Carson. We have a lot of exciting projects in progress and in the pipeline that she will likely talk about. Thank you to all my fellow Commissioners for this meeting.

Commissioner Mfume – I do not have anything to report but I do want to say thank you to my fellow Commissioners here and city staff for your support.

Commissioner Rashad – I do not have anything to report.

Commissioner Docdocil – Congratulations to the applicants, staff, and my fellow Commissioners. I would like to say, in addition to the State of the City, the city is also accepting nominations right now for the Leaves of Carson. The Leaves of Carson is a program to recognize individuals who live or work in the City of Carson or local based organizations for their contributions as volunteers in the Carson Community. For more information, please refer to the social media account for the City of Carson.

Commissioner Huff – This is a busy time for the education community. We have many opportunities for scholarship applications. Our Carson Women's Club, African American Coalition, and Human Relations Commission are also taking applications for opportunities for our children to advance. The Human Relations Commission just finished their big yearly event where ten young people were honored, it was a huge program. I invite everybody to go to their websites and check those things out so that we may continue in supporting the educational opportunities in our city. Thank you very much and it is wonderful to be here with you all this evening.

Commissioner Guerra – Thank you to the staff for the great work that they do for the City of Carson and of course our awesome Assistant City Attorney and the applicants. I am excited

about the restaurant and the development of that single family dwelling to assure that you stay in Carson and continue to support the city.

Interim Chair Thomas – It is always a pleasure. This Commission over the last two years during covid approved over 36 projects. It is nice when you drive around the city, you know that the planning Commission has approved projects, and you see them being built now. I was going down Carson and I saw the Teriyaki Grill and I was really excited about that. I saw some other projects that are now coming to fruition. It makes me feel good that the work that we do here is now happening in Carson. I will reiterate Commissioner Wilson; we have our State of the City Address on Thursday, and a lot of those projects are going to be shared. Get the word out and tell people to attend so that they can know what is happening in the Great City of Carson. Thank you to everybody for being here, the staff, and my fellow Commissioners.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Interim Chairperson

Attest By:

Secretary