



TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024
701 East Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745
City Hall, Helen Kawagoe Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION

Members:	Dianne Thomas Interim Chair	Louie Diaz Interim Vice Chair	Frederick Docdocil
	Carlos Guerra	Del Huff	Jaime Monteclaro
	Richard Hernandez	DeQuita Mfume	Clarence Johnson
Alternates:	Leticia Wilson		
Staff:	Christopher Palmer, AICP Planning Manager	Benjamin Jones Assistant City Attorney	Laura Gonzalez Planning Secretary

“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

Interim Chair Thomas Called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Docdocil led the Salute to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

Planning Commissioners Present: Thomas, Guerra, Docdocil, Huff, Mfume, Wilson (Late), Johnson

Planning Commissioners Absent: Diaz (Excused), Hernandez (Excused), Monteclaro

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

ITEM NO. 6A

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A) Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Planning Commission Decision:

Commissioner Guerra moved, seconded by Commissioner Mfume, to have Commissioner Thomas as newly appointed Chair. Motion carried, unanimous.

Commissioner Huff moved, seconded by Commissioner Guerra, to have Commissioner Diaz as newly appointed Vice Chair. Motion carried, unanimous.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A) Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2024

Planning Commission Decision:

Commissioner Guerra moved, seconded by Commissioner Docdocil, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, unanimous.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

A) Site Plan and Design Review (DOR) No. 1957-24

Request:

Consider finding a CEQA exemption and approval of Site Plan and Design Review No. 1957-24 for development of a 7,638 square foot Animal Clinic. (16300 Figueroa Street)

Staff Recommendation:

Assistant Planner Richard Garcia presented the staff report and the recommendation to ADOPT Resolution No. 24-2870, entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CARSON FINDING A CEQA EXEMPTION AND CONDITIONALLY APPROVING SITE PLAN AND DESIGN REVIEW NO. 1957-24 TO CONSTRUCT A NEW 7,638 SF ANIMAL CLINIC AND ASSOCATED SITE IMPROVEMENTS."

Assistant City Attorney Jones – I have one recommended addition to the CEQA finding in Section 3 of the Resolution. In addition to what Planner Garcia stated, it would be appropriate to also add that the project is not a discretionary project within the meaning of CEQA because it's before you only on a Design Overlay Review. Normally the city doesn't have CEQA authority

over DOR only projects under the McCorkle case. Under the McCorkle and the Public Resources Code section 21080 it's not a discretionary project within the meaning of CEQA. I recommend that to be added to the CEQA finding and that the portion that you see there be made an alternative finding. Just to be clear, Section 3 currently has a CEQA exemption under CEQA Guidelines 15332 for infill-development, but an exemption is only needed when it's a project within the meaning of CEQA in the first place. In this case under the McCorkle case and Section 21080 of the Public Resources Code it wouldn't be a discretionary project within the meaning of CEQA in the first place. As an alternative finding in the event that the interpretation of the McCorkle case is not correct then as an alternative basis, we would also maintain Section 15332 exemption.

Chair Thomas opened the public hearing.

Richard Rauh (Architect) – I am here to answer any questions you might have.

Jason Joh (Civil Engineer) – I am also here to answer any questions regarding the project.

John Ramirez - I am representing ASPCA and will be operating the property. I am here to answer any questions. We've reviewed the Conditions of Approval with staff and agree with all of them.

Chair Thomas – We are looking forward to seeing the site developed. Just for clarification, even though you will be doing surgeries this is not a hospital. There will be recovery time for the surgeries performed. You are not opening a facility where you will be boarding animals, right?

John Ramirez – That is correct.

Chair Thomas closed the public hearing.

Planning Commission Decision:

Commissioner Guerra moved, seconded by Commissioner Huff, to approve staff's recommendation with amendment to Section 3 of the Resolution, thus adopting Resolution No. 24-2870. Motion carried, 7-0.

8. MANAGER'S REPORT

Planning Manager Palmer – The city won the American Planning Association Award and Merit for the Economic Development Strategic Planning. Congratulations! We will be getting an award at the end of the month at a gala. Once that happens, we are going to submit for a state title and then we will go for nationals. On a more serious note, I report attendance of the meetings to the City Clerk's Office. I would like to be clear on that if you have three consecutive unexcused absences or six absences during the year you can be removed from the Planning Commission.

Chair Thomas – If you are ill that is an excused absence. Respond when our secretary sends out the notification for the meeting. Do not respond to all. Respond only to the sender and let her know whether you are going to be present.

9. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Johnson – Nice to be here, thanks to the community and the applicant.

Commissioner Mfume – It's been a while since we met. It's good to see everyone.

Commissioner Docdocil – It's great to be back among friends and colleagues. This past weekend the City of Carson got an opportunity to celebrate the 126th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Philippine Independence. There were more than 10,000 attendees at this celebration.

Commissioner Wilson – I would like to congratulate Chair Thomas on her reappointment. We all agree that she has been an amazing leader for us.

Commissioner Huff – This is a wonderful commission. I am also happy to see everybody.

Commissioner Guerra – I would like to thank the developer for the animal clinic. I am horrified when passing through that site. Now I'm extremely excited that it's being developed.

Chair Thomas – Congratulations to our Filipino community. This coming Saturday we'll be celebrating Juneteenth at Mill Memorial Park from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Happy Father's Day.

Planning Manager Palmer – I would like to congratulate our Assistant City Attorney Jones. He is considered a Super Lawyer among Rising Stars.

Chair Thomas – A couple of years ago he became a father for the first time, congratulations.

Assistant City Attorney Jones – Thank you and Happy Father's Day to everyone.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Dianne Thomas
Chairperson

Attest By:

Laura Gonzalez
Planning Secretary