



## **PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the La Quinta Planning Commission was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Barrows.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Blum, Weber, Wilkinson, Vice Chair Wright, and Chairperson Barrows

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Community Development Director Les Johnson, Public Works Director Tim Jonasson, Community Services Director Edie Hylton, Planning Manager David Sawyer, and Secretary Monika Radeva

Commissioner Weber led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA** - Confirmed

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** – A motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Wright/Wilkinson to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of January 14, 2014 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Site Development Permit 2013-935 submitted by the City of La Quinta for the consideration of architectural and landscaping plans for the expansion of the existing Senior Center by approximately 6,000 square feet, and a determination of exemption per the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines sections 15301 and 15332, Existing Facilities and Infill Development. Location: 78450 Avenida La Fonda, Civic Center, current Senior Center building.

Revised plan set exhibits for this project were distributed to the Commission before the Planning Commission meeting was called to order.

Community Development Director Les Johnson presented the staff report, a copy of which is on file in the Community Development Department.

Mr. Jesse Frescas Jr., Team Member with Person Architects, Inc. and Certified Construction Manager with Doug Wall Construction, Inc., La Quinta, CA – introduced himself and answered the Commission’s questions.

Mr. Craig Pearson, Principal Architect, President and CEO with Pearson Architects, Inc., Palm Desert, CA – introduced himself and answered the Commission’s questions.

Community Services Director Edie Hylton gave a brief description of the project, its goals, different types of programs that would be offered, and answered the Commission’s questions.

Chairperson Barrows declared the PUBLIC HEARING OPEN at 7:38 p.m.

Public Speaker – None.

Chairperson Barrows declared the PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED at 7:42 p.m.

Motion – A motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Weber/Wright to adopt Resolution 2014-003 approving Site Development Permit 2013-935 as submitted with staff’s recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

**BUSINESS SESSION** – None

**CORRESPONDENCE AND WRITTEN MATERIAL** – None

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

1. Report on City Council meeting of January 21, 2014.

**DIRECTOR’S ITEMS**

1. Presentation on proposed Landscape Enhancements and Assessments for north La Quinta.

Public Works Director Jonasson gave a presentation on the proposed Landscape Enhancements and Assessments for north La Quinta and explained the fiscal challenges encountered in the City’s efforts to maintain the quality landscaping that currently exists and the proposed solutions to these challenges.

Commissioner Wilkinson suggested establishing an end date to the proposed increased assessment district fees which will be reflective of the infrastructure improvements and savings to be realized from the conversion of turf into desertcape. Thus, identifying a more reasonable amount that would cover the estimated costs for maintenance and upkeep, but would not result in a surplus for the City. He mentioned that the proposed increase to the fees could be lessened if the identified improvements and conversions are phased out and completed over a longer period of time. He noted that a few residents have expressed concerns to him that once the fees are raised then even if no longer needed in the future they will remain at the same amount.

Public Works Director Jonasson explained the City's established yearly review and audit process for all assessment districts and stated that a few years ago the City Council had in fact reduced the yearly assessment rate to the current amount of \$35.60 because there was a surplus of funds at the time.

Public Speaker: Mrs. Kay Wolf, La Quinta resident, CA – introduced herself and spoke in favor of the proposed landscape enhancements and assessments for north La Quinta.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded by Commissioners Wright/Blum to adjourn this meeting at 8:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



MONIKA RADEVA, Secretary  
City of La Quinta, California

