

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LANCASTER ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN COMMISSION

September 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson April Bartlett called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Andrew Mercy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Diana Cook, Andrew (Drew) Mercy, Sandra Pursley, and Chairperson April Bartlett

ABSENT: Commissioners Courtney Stallworth, Timothy Wiley, and Vice Chairman Matthew Buchanan

Also present were the following: Brian Ludicke (Planning Director), Silvia Donovan (Principal Planner), Elma Watson (Assistant Planner), Marion Coleman (Recording Secretary), and an audience of approximately 10 people.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Mercy and seconded by Commissioner Cook to approve the minutes from the Regular Meetings of July 22, 2010, and August 26, 2010, respectively. Motion carried with the following vote (4-0-0-3):

AYES: Commissioners Cook, Mercy, Pursley, and Chairperson Bartlett
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Stallworth, Wiley, and Vice Chairman Buchanan

NEW ITEMS**2. Review of Digital Billboard Upgrade**

Brian Ludicke informed the Architectural & Design Commission (ADC) of the off-premise advertising regulations (Digital Billboard) approved by the City Council August 24, 2010, to establish requirements for the installation and use of digital signage. The copy of the proposed upgrade located adjacent to the freeway and Avenue L-8 was viewed and discussed.

Discussion regarding the proposed billboard ensued. Commissioner Mercy inquired if the digital billboards would include the Amber Alert. Brian Ludicke responded the Amber Alert was included as a part of the digital billboards.

Commissioner Pursley inquired if the lighting from digital billboards shining in the residences yards would affect neighboring residences. Brian Ludicke responded in the negative and stated that the illumination level was controlled by a sensor, and the freeway separated the sign from the residential area to the west.

CONTINUED ITEMS**3. Discussion of Downtown Historic Buildings**

Brian Ludicke stated that the City Council assigned to the ADC the task of developing a process for reviewing and maintaining historic buildings downtown, while making sure that economic development is not inhibited. He stated that Norma Gurba, former curator of Lancaster Museum and Art Gallery, would be meeting with him to discuss the downtown historic buildings. He added that Ms. Gurba also wanted to include the buildings on the east side of Sierra Highway.

Gary Burgess stated that he had been a resident of Lancaster for 40 years, and the downtown Lancaster historic buildings were very important. He stated that in his opinion the Cedar Street Post Office should be preserved, because of the historical murals on the walls. He expressed his fear that with the renovation and with the theme of "The BLVD", the Post Office could be demolished. He stated the Cedar Street Post Office along with other buildings, are the thread that keeps the Downtown together. He added that change is good, but some things do not need to be changed. The Post Office represents good times and hard times for many citizens in Lancaster.

Commissioner Mercy stated that the Post Office was federally owned and inquired if the preservation of the building was the City's decision.

Brian Ludicke responded that the federal government is subject to federal requirements; therefore, the City does not have control over a decision to preserve the Cedar Street Post Office.

Gary Burgess stated he had a final comment or "pet peeve" concerning the trees that have been planted next to the library. He stated that the posts that are tied to the trees are causing the trees to die and are an eyesore; also the pine trees have wires that cut into the trees which will cause the trees to die. He suggested to the Commission to go to "The BLVD" and look at the trees.

Dayle DeBry stated she had been a member of the Antelope Valley community for over 32 years, and was in favor of preserving the Lancaster history. She stated that the preservation of Lancaster history should be the forefront of the City's agenda. The historic buildings should be preserved, not replaced. She distributed a letter dated June 11, 1990, to the Commission and staff and stated there was an attached list of 'old-timers' on the Historical Society list who are a source of information in reference to historic buildings and homes. She suggested incorporating the old with the new to create a better economic system in Lancaster.

Bonnie Stone stated she was a journalist and had written several books of the growth in the Lancaster area. She expressed her desire for tourism and walking tours of older homes in Lancaster. A tourist bus for the City of Lancaster, she felt, would bring people to tour Downtown Lancaster. She added that there were homes near downtown Lancaster that celebrities grew-up in, for example, Barbara Mandrell, Judy Garland, and Frank Zappa. She stated her disappointment in losing John Wayne's home. She concluded that the first movie shot in Lancaster was in 1915, and her vision of a tour guide showing those areas would be beautiful for Lancaster.

4. Status of Master Plan for Trails and Bikeways

Elma Watson updated the Commission of the progress with the Master Plans for Trails and Bikeways. She stated that the contract was awarded to Ryan Snyder & Associates, and signed on September 1, 2010. She briefed the Commission and staff of the scheduled meetings and workshops that have been set for the Master Plan for Trails and Bikeways (see handouts).

Brian Ludicke encouraged the Commission to attend the workshops.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m., to Thursday, October 28, 2010, at 4:00 p.m., in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Lancaster City Hall.

APRIL BARTLETT, Chairperson
Lancaster Architectural and Design Commission

ATTEST:

BRIAN S. LUDICKE, Planning Director
City of Lancaster