

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LANCASTER ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN COMMISSION

November 22, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson April Bartlett called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Amanda Hawse led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Amanda Hawse, Sandra Pursley, Timothy Wiley, Vice Chair Andrew Mercy and Chairperson April Bartlett.

ABSENT: Commissioner Stallworth.

Also present were the following: Brian Ludicke (Planning Director), Silvia Donovan (Principal Planner), Elma Watson (Planner), Shirley Corder (Recording Secretary) and an audience of four.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Chair April Bartlett and seconded by Vice Chair Drew Mercy to approve the minutes from the Meeting of November 3, 2011. Motion carried with the following vote (5-0-0-1):

AYES: Commissioners Hawse, Pursley, Wiley, Vice Chair Mercy and Chairperson Bartlett.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Commissioner Stallworth.

CONTINUED BUSINESS**2. MASTER PLAN FOR TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS DRAFT REVIEW**

Chair Bartlett addressed the Commissioners stating that each of them was assigned to review particular sections of the Draft Plan. She stated that this was their opportunity to provide comments, issues or concerns.

Commissioners Pursley and Stallworth reviewed the Pedestrian Section and were called upon to report their issues/concerns. Commissioner Pursley spoke on behalf of her group. She indicated that she and Commissioner Stallworth had no major concerns with the plan. She indicated that Commissioner Stallworth is a fan of paseos and would like to see them incorporated into the trails plan in the future. Commissioner Pursley indicated jogging loops were not mentioned in the draft. As a jogger, she is concerned with safety and public amenities. She indicated that Sierra Highway has tall landscaping and dense shrubbery which she feels is unsafe for joggers. She feels that lowering shrubbery, call boxes and sufficient lighting would contribute to a sense of safety for joggers.

Vice Chair Mercy and Commissioner reviewed the Trails Plan. Both Vice Chair Mercy and Commissioner Hawse felt that this is a tremendous plan which has been a long time in coming. They both felt that the City's plan should tie into the County's Trail Plan. As issues, they cited Section 713 and 734 of the draft plan. Section 713 deals with trailhead amenities and Section 734 details staging areas. They stated that amenities should include staging areas with pull through parking space since currently trailers can't be pulled through. They cited 90th St. West and 45th St. East as good equestrian trail sites. They stated that the equestrian community wants to link east and west trails but realize that current infrastructure may prohibit full connectivity.

Chair Bartlett and Commissioner Wiley reviewed and reported on the Bicycle Plan. Commissioner Wiley indicated that the Plan is well written. He felt that now we need to publish and promote the plan so that the public is aware of what we are putting into place. He suggested bike days or bike-a-thons. Chair Bartlett stated that the Sierra Highway bike trail landscaping "smacks" the riders in the face as they are riding through. She also indicated that 10th St. West to 15th St. West on Avenue L should connect and that a reroute to Avenue K-8 doesn't work effectively as an alternate route. Brian Ludicke stated that staff will take a closer look at this stretch of roadway because it crosses a Caltrans right-of-way, and stated that staff would provide additional information regarding Avenue L so that the Commission could make an informed decision.

Commissioner Pursley stated she didn't have a problem diverting to Ave. K-8 but is concerned about Sierra Highway/Avenue K-8 connections to Avenue L. She indicated there was nowhere to ride in that section and she would not want to jog there either.

Commissioners noted that bicycling over the Avenue L bridge presents a safety concern. Staff will take a look at this area as well because long-term traffic capacity with a reduction in lanes may not accommodate long-term traffic conditions.

Chair Bartlett introduced Elaine Macdonald, a Lancaster resident and representative of Equestrian Trails Coral 138 who rides both bikes and horses. Ms. Macdonald stated that she wanted to see equestrian trails connect with bike trails. She feels that trails should be wider so that two horses can ride side-by-side. Ms. Macdonald also indicated that developers should be asked to create trails for horse keeping. She feels that horses and hiking go together and suggested that the city launch a “Lancaster Trail Days.”

Chair Bartlett asked the Commissioners to review the matrix provided by staff that lists the public comments provided so far on the Plan. Each item on the matrix was reviewed individually to determine if any ADC action was needed. Discussion regarding the Avenue L overpass will be examined further with the City Public Works Department and information brought to the Commissioners at the December 1, 2011 meeting.

Commissioner Hawse wanted to add language in the Plan instructing developers that parking lots should be pedestrian friendly. Brian Ludicke stated that the language as proposed by Commissioner Hawse is appropriate and also noted that these approaches are often supported by developers.

Vice Chair Mercy wanted to change language in the plan from “The first three reductions contribute to local and regional air quality, and the reduction in CO2 equivalent combats global warming.” To read “This contributes to local and regional air quality.” However, staff recommends changing the verbiage to “These reductions contribute to local and regional air quality.”

Staff will keep the Commissioners informed of comments as they are received.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Michelle Chavez, a Lancaster resident and cyclist stated that she was happy with the overall plan but has issues with the Avenue L overpass. She likes to ride her bike to Costco but that is virtually impossible to do safely with the current speed limit of 50 mph.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

APRIL BARTLETT, Chairperson
Lancaster Architectural and Design Commission

ATTEST:

Silvia Donovan, Principal Planner
City of Lancaster