

CITY OF COLTON
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2010
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 650 NORTH LA CADENA DRIVE, COLTON, CA

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ramirez.

Commissioners Present

Cynthia Ramirez, Chairperson
Thomas Archuleta, Vice-Chairperson
Gary Mitchell, Commissioner
Frank Navarro, Commissioner
Joe Perez III, Commissioner
Richard Prieto, Commissioner
Edward Martinez, Commissioner

Staff Present

Sylvia Scharf, AICP, Interim Development Services
Director
Rahsaan Tilford, Associate City Attorney
Veronica McCoy, Associate Planner
Christy Elshof, Economic Development Project Manager

Commissioners Absent

None

ITEM D-APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2010

ITEM E – ORAL COMMUNICATION

None

ITEM F – PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

ITEM G – COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

None

ITEM H – DIRECTOR REMARKS/REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL AGENDAS

Interim Development Services Director Scharf provided an update on the status of the major advance planning studies underway including the General Plan, Specific Plans and HCP which together are the basis of the policy framework for the Housing Element.

Director Scharf provided an update on these plans, stating that collectively, they are 50 – 75% complete: the Housing Element has been submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for comments, the Land Use Element is in draft form, and the Transportation Element is being prepared by the consultants with a draft expected soon. In addition, the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is being reviewed with the consultant to determine if a regional approach to the fly habitat issue is a feasible alternative is at this time.

Each of the plans and the HCP have gone through some level of public review. Staff is evaluating the work products completed to date to determine what can be done to most efficiently move them toward completion. The next step will be to forward the documents to the State Clearinghouse for comment by the public and responsible agencies.

Given that all of the studies are in various states of completion and the limitations of the city's financial situation, the most efficient course of action is to complete all the plans as quickly as possible so that when the economy improves, the city is ready to move forward with development projects. It is notable that The City Council is not cutting the budgets for these planning efforts, thereby proving their support for completing the plans in an effort to position Colton for positive future growth.

The next step will be to schedule joint Planning Commission and City Council meetings to scope the General Plan and Housing Element for the environmental process.

Director Scharf quoted City Manager Rod Foster's statements that there is a philosophical shift in the approach toward development in the city. If the city is to move forward there needs to be more flexibility interpreting planning policies — high quality design and landscape themes will become one of the key elements for achieving quality projects within the city.

Commissioner Martinez commented that regardless of the current state of the economy, he sees the need to plan ahead, to look ahead 2 – 5 years and be ready. Commissioner Navarro stated that he is not as optimistic, and sees recovery much further into the future.

Commissioner Mitchell and Chairperson Ramirez stated that they would like to see the HCD letter in response to the submission of the Housing Element. Director Scharf stated that the document was not a public document at this time, but that the issues/corrections/comments are being addressed.

ITEM G- COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- PC packet pick-up at the City Clerk's Office
- Update on the status of the former K-Mart
- Election of Officers, bylaws, when can these be agendized?
- Colton Iron and Metal compliance update - Colton Iron and Metal—in process?
- Comfort Inn, Counsel finalizing report and recommendations
- Discussion of 2nd Units in garages, what happens when discovered?
- Illegal auto servicing on Mount Vernon, is there an update?
- Parolee homes' urgency ordinance

ITEM H- ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Navarro moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Prieto, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.