

**CITY OF COLTON**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2010**  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 650 NORTH LA CADENA DRIVE, COLTON, CA

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Archuleta.

**Commissioners Present**

Thomas Archuleta, Vice-Chairperson

Edward Martinez, Commissioner

Gary Mitchell, Commissioner

Frank Navarro, Commissioner

Joe Perez III, Commissioner

Richard Prieto, Commissioner

**Staff Present**

Sylvia Scharf, AICP, Interim Development Services  
Director

Rahsaan Tilford, Associate City Attorney

Christy Elshof, Economic Development Project Manager

**Commissioners Absent**

Cynthia Ramirez, Chairperson

**ITEM D – ORAL COMMUNICATION**

City Manager Rod Foster introduced the new Interim Development Services Director, Sylvia Scharf, to the Commission, who welcomed her. He also explained the new Planning Commission seating arrangement, with Staff and the City Attorney in the Director's chairs, rather than on the dais with the Commissioners, stating that it made for better communication between Staff and Counsel. The Commissioners agreed to try the new seating arrangement.

**ITEM E – COMMISSION CONSIDERATION**

**1. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CHAIN LINK FENCES ON COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS**

Project Manager Elshof read from a memorandum to the Commission regarding a referral from the Design Review Committee of an issue regarding the use of chain link fencing on commercial corridors. Design Review Committee (DRC) had made the referral for discussion to the Commission because though the DRC is the hearing body for chain-link fence applications, there had been several applications appealed to the Commission and City Council. Therefore, DRC was seeking a policy direction from the Commission.

Vice-chairperson Archuleta opened the meeting for public comment. Being none, public comment was closed.

Commissioner Mitchell stated that commercial corridors are the "front door" to the city and that he prefers a better and more visually pleasing aesthetic solution than chain link fencing. His direction was that the DRC continue to recommend other fencing materials as per the Municipal Code.

Commissioner Perez III indicated that he feels that chain link fencing should be a temporary solution on the commercial corridors and would like to see the City veer away from chain link throughout the city. Commissioner Prieto continued a discussion on temporary fencing by stating that temporary should be defined as a certain time frame, after which the fencing would need to be constructed as a permanent structure using approved fencing methods as defined by the Municipal Code.

Commissioner Navarro said he supports the ordinance and denial of a chain link fence in that area, but suggested that Staff give the applicant options of appropriate fencing to maintain continuity of materials.

Commissioner Martinez said that he supports DRC taking a stand against chain link fencing on commercial corridors, but feels that the stand against chain link fencing in other zoning areas must be

included to be fair—that consistency is important and that the issue needs to be defined more specifically.

Associate City Attorney Tilford stated that the ordinance was approved in 1992, so fences that were constructed prior to that date would be considered legal nonconforming, but new fencing would need to comply. He indicated that considerable discretion regarding the approval of fencing was given to DRC, through the Municipal Code and guidelines could be applied to work more effectively and leave the city less vulnerable to challenge.

Commissioner Archuleta suggested that the ordinance should be applied in all areas of the city, not just commercial corridors. He used Pacific Rail as an example, where the proper use of landscaping berms and a block wall in a heavy industrial area nearly completely screens a scrap yard from view on M Street.

After more discussion on the use of chain link fences in residential areas, Associate City Attorney Tilford returned the discussion to Commission direction on chain link fences in commercial areas by suggesting that inequities can be prevented by new guidelines that can be tailored to certain zoning and individual areas of the city.

Public Comment (Oral Communication) was re-opened to entertain a comment by Gary Grosich. Mr. Grosich used his father's property on F Street as an example, stating that his father was required to take down a chain link fence and erect a block wall to screen his auto storage from the street, but that nearby, a major business was then allowed to put a chain link fence. He stated that his point was that there are inconsistencies in the way businesses are treated. Public Comment was then closed.

Associate City Attorney Tilford stated that the Commission could direct staff to review the current ordinance and that the issue could be agendaized for future discussion.

Interim Director Scharf commented that the DRC had been looking for direction and clarity since there had been various interpretations of the ordinance. She indicated that given the Commission's clear direction to not allow chain link fencing on commercial corridors, Staff will work toward that vision, and if necessary, staff will consider revising the ordinance.

#### **ITEM G- COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- City upheld the La Villa CUP revocation
- Housing Element/General Plan update
- Traffic Committee update, can a citizen be a member of that committee?
- Colton Iron and Metal compliance update
- Comfort Inn sign update, report back to PC
- An auto repair business has been operating without a permit for 3 weeks, and with an illegal sign and illegal fence. Staff to investigate
- Distribution of requested information to Commission
- DRC Schedule distributed, agendas in advance

#### **ITEM H- ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Navarro, the meeting was adjourned.