

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
[DRAFT] PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2011**

A Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 13th day of April, 2011, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, at 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Fasola, Seville-Jones, Vice-Chairperson Andreani
Absent: Chairperson Paralusz
Staff Present: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Laurie Jester, Planning Manager
Recording Secretary, Sarah Boeschen

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 23, 2011

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Seville-Jones, Fasola) to **APPROVE** the minutes of March 23, 2011.

AYES: Fasola, Seville-Jones, Vice-Chairperson Andreani
NOES: None
ABSENT: Chairperson Paralusz
ABSTAIN: None

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

04/13/11-1 Consideration of City Council 2011-2012 Work Plan Item: Zoning Code Amendment for Removal of Required Public Hearing for Properties to be Designated as Culturally Significant Landmarks.

Planning Manager Jester summarized the staff report.

In response to a question from Commissioner Fasola, Planning Manager Jester indicated that the process for designating a culturally significant landmark would continue to include preparation of a staff report with the proposed Zoning Code Amendment. She commented that the only change that is proposed is to remove the requirement to have a noticed public hearing for the designation of culturally significant landmarks.

In response to a question from Vice-Chairperson Andreani, Planning Manager Jester said that proposals for designating culturally significant landmarks would be placed under General Business Items on the City Council meeting agenda. She indicated that the proposals would be presented by staff and discussed by the City Council with an opportunity for public input. She commented that the proposed change is that the property owners within 500 feet of the subject sites would not receive notice and the hearings would not be noticed in the Beach Reporter. She indicated, however, that the proposals would be placed on the City Council's agenda and the staff reports would be posted on the website.

In response to a question from Vice-Chairperson Andreani, Planning Manager Jester stated that the City issues a bronze plaque and letter to certify that a site is a culturally significant landmark.

Vice-Chairperson Andreani opened the public hearing.

Public Input

Jan Dennis indicated that their group consists of ten members. She said that their group provides the City Council with a brief description of the house that is proposed to be designated as a culturally significant landmark. She commented that not requiring noticing for the hearings would take a burden off of staff, and they are happy with the proposal. She commented that they would like for the name of their group to be correctly referred in the landmark designations as the Cultural Heritage Conservancy. She indicated that they are going to be having a fundraiser to help get more people involved in their group. She stated that there are buildings over 100 years that have been designated as culturally significant landmarks. She said that they appreciate the help of the City.

Robin Kirk indicated that she has worked with staff for three years on preparing write-ups of the properties proposed to be designated as culturally significant landmarks. She said that the request is before the Commission because they have worked with staff to streamline the process and feel that noticing the hearings is not necessary. She indicated that eliminating the requirement for noticing would save the City money.

Vice-Chairperson Andreani closed the public hearing.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Fasola stated that he supports the proposal to streamline the process for designating culturally significant landmarks.

Commissioner Seville-Jones said that she supports the proposal. She indicated that it is a benefit to reduce the amount of time required to identify structures as culturally significant. She stated that is a great gift to have community members helping to identify culturally significant landmarks, as staff is pressed in their time. She commented that the reports that are prepared on the subject properties are well done and provide a background of the structures and their history as part of the City. She thanked the members of the Conservancy for their work.

Vice-Chairperson Andreani thanked the members of the Cultural Heritage Conservancy. She said that the Ordinance as proposed would help to speed up the process of bringing culturally significant landmarks to the attention of the community. She indicated that designating culturally significant landmarks is an important part of recognizing the City's heritage. She also pointed out that no property rights are taken away by designating properties as culturally significant landmarks. She indicated that she supports the proposal.

Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Fasola/Seville-Jones) to **APPROVE** a Zoning Code Amendment for removal of required public hearing for properties to be designated as culturally significant landmarks.

AYES: Andreani, Fasola, Seville-Jones

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chairperson Paralusz
ABSTAIN: None

Director Thompson indicated that the item will be placed on the City Council's agenda in May.

5. DIRECTORS ITEMS

Director Thompson stated that the due date for submitting applications for the Planning Commission is April 21, 2011.

6. PLANNING COMMISSION ITEMS

Vice-Chairperson Andreani indicated that all the City's Board and Commission applications are due by April 21, 2011. She indicated that the City Council will consider all applications at their meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

Commissioner Andreani commented that an Earth Day event is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Polliwog Park.

7. TENTATIVE AGENDA April 27, 2011

- A. Continued Public Hearing for Hot Doggers, 1605 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
- B. Use Permit and Coastal Extension for 3920 Highland Avenue

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. to Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue

SARAH BOESCHEN
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

RICHARD THOMPSON
Community Development Director