

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA HABRA
April 11, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Manley called the Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of La Habra to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: LED BY COMMISSIONER BERNIER

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS: MANLEY
MUNOZ
BERNIER
ROJAS

ABSENT: (EXCUSED) COMMISSIONERS: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: DIRECTOR: KIM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR: RAMSLAND
SENIOR PLANNER: SCHAEFER
ASSOCIATE PLANNER: D. LOPEZ
SECRETARY: V. LOPEZ

SWEARING IN

Secretary Veronica Lopez administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Planning Commissioner Carrie Surich and Planning Commissioner Esther Rojas.

RECOGNITION

Chair Manly presented Council Member Daren Nigsarian with a proclamation for his years of service to the community and the Planning Commission.

REORGANIZATION

Deputy Director Roy Ramsland presented the staff report and facilitated the Commission's nominations.

Commissioner Manley nominated Commissioner Munoz for Chair. Commissioner Bernier seconded the nomination.

Motion passed unanimously to appoint Commissioner Munoz as Chair of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Manley nominated Commissioner Rojas for Vice Chair. Chair Munoz seconded the nomination.

Motion passed unanimously to appoint Commissioner Rojas as Vice Chair of the Planning Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Munoz asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak on any item not on the agenda. There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Chair explained the Consent Calendar procedures. He asked if there were any members of the public or any Commissioners that wished to have any item removed. There were none.

The approval of the Consent Calendar was moved by Commissioner Manley and seconded by Commissioner Bernier. The motion passed with Commissioner Surich abstaining from item number two.

1. PROCEDURAL WAIVER: Waive reading in full of resolutions and ordinances and approval and adoption of same by reading title only.
2. Approval of the Planning Commission Minutes of March 28, 2022.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. A CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 22-01 FOR THE EXPANSION OF A RESTAURANT (RUBY REDS BBQ) AND MODIFICATION 22-01 TO MODIFY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 20-14 FOR AN ABC TYPE 41 ON-SALE BEER AND WINE LICENSE AT 1841 WEST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, SUITES A AND B.

Chair Munoz asked if any correspondence had been received in regards to the item. Secretary Lopez said no correspondence had been received.

Associate Planner David Lopez presented the staff report.

Chair Munoz re-opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone in the audience to speak in favor of the proposed project. There were none.

The Chair then asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in opposition of the project. There were none.

The Chair then asked if the Commission had questions for the applicant.

Chair Munoz said they had question on the overall layout of the proposed expansion. He asked the applicant for clarification on the new opening to the adjacent suite.

Kevin Hufford, ABC consultant for the operator, addressed the Commission. He replied to Chair Munoz by saying that the opening would be a continuous doorway and that the new area would have employees at all times. This will be a pickup area for online orders, catering orders and a cashier will be available for retail sales.

Commissioner Manley asked for clarification on the location of the opening to the suite next door by referring to the drawing in Associate Planner David's presentation. Steve Williamson, President of Ruby Reds, said that currently there is a solid wall decorated with

reclaimed wood and other items as well as a bench for guests to sit on while they wait in line. That wall will be removed to make an eight-foot-high opening, leaving a portion of wall at the top for the decorations, the opening to the new suite will be via a curtain wall.

Chair Munoz asked if an employee will always be in that newly created area. Mr. Williamson said that area is for to go orders, catering orders, third party deliveries, online orders, and their retail items. A cashier will always be there as well as other employees to cleanup and interact with guests.

Commissioner Bernier asked how many employees would be located in the existing dining area. Mr. Williamson said there are about 10-12 employees on that side since that is the side with the service or cook line and there are employees on the other side of the counter serving customers. Commissioner Bernier expressed concerns with only having two employees in the new area as opposed to the 10-12 in the existing area. Mr. Williamson said that there are more employees on the existing side because that's where they cook and serve the customers as they line up to place orders. He reiterated that there will always be at least two employees in the new area and that he and other staff members will walk around and interact with guests in both areas. Commissioner Bernier said she was concerned with only having two employees in that new area with alcohol being served.

Vice Chair Rojas asked if during they time they have been operational, have they had any issues with unruly customers due to alcohol consumption. Mr. Williamson said no they have not had any issues.

Commissioner Manley asked Mr. Williamson if he had any concerns for the safety of his employees based on the limited visibility into the new adjoining suite while customers consume alcohol. Mr. Williamson said that the safety of his employees is always a high priority for him. He would not put his employees in an environment where they were made to feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

The Chair closed the public hearing and asked for discussion or a motion.

Moved by Commissioner Manley and seconded by Vice Chair Rojas, Approving Resolution No. 22-17 Entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA HABRA APPROVING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 22-01 TO ESTABLISH A RESTAURANT AT 1841 WEST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, SUITES A AND B, AS PER THE APPROVED PLAN, MAKING THE APPROPRIATE FININGS, AND SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: MANLEY, ROJAS, MUNOZ, BERNIER, SURICH
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: NONE
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: NONE

Moved by Chair Munoz and seconded by Commissioner Manley, Approving Resolution No. 22-18 Entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA HABRA APPROVING MODIFICATION 22-01, A MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 20-14 FOR AN ABC TYPE 41 ON-SALE BEER AND WINE

LICENSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH A RESTAURANT AT 1841 WEST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, SUITES A AND B, AS PER THE APPROVED PLAN, MAKING THE APPROPRIATE FINDINGS, AND SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: MUNOZ, MANLEY, ROJAS, BERNIER, SURICH

NOES: COMMISSIONERS: NONE

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS: NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: NONE

CONSIDERATION ITEMS

There were no consideration items.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF

Director Susan Kim said that after hearing comments from the Commission at the last Planning Commission meeting in regards to changing the Commission meetings to at least once a month, staff would not be bringing that request forward to City Council. Staff would be forwarding the zoning code amendments for Council consideration at the next Council meeting.

Deputy Director Roy Ramsland introduced Lauren L'Ecuyer, Associate Attorney from the City Attorney's office who presented a short workshop on The Brown Act and Ethics in Public Service.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Bernier said she was happy that Ruby Red's got approved. She welcomed Commissioner Surich and said that it was great to see Daren Nigsarian move on to do great things as a Councilmember. She also said that it was great that Commissioner Rojas was re-appointed. She finally thanked Commissioner Manley for his work as Chair.

Commissioner Manley welcomed Commissioner Surich.

Commissioner Surich said she was exited to be part of the Commission and looked forward to learning new things from her fellow Commissioners.

Vice Chair Rojas welcomed Commissioner Surich.

Chair Munoz congratulated Commissioner Rojas and welcomed Commissioner Surich.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Lopez,
Secretary