

**CITY OF DANA POINT  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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June 23, 2014  
6:00 – 6:25 p.m.

City Hall Offices  
Council Chamber (#210)  
33282 Golden Lantern  
Dana Point, CA 92629

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**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Claus called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner Denton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Chairwoman Liz Claus, Commissioner Norman Denton, Commissioner Gary Newkirk, Vice-Chairwoman April O'Connor, and Commissioner Susan Whittaker

Staff Present: Ursula Luna-Reynosa (Director), John Tilton (City Architect/Planning Manager), Danny Giometti (Assistant Planner), Jennifer Farrell (Deputy City Attorney) and Denise Jacobo (Planning Secretary)

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ITEM 1:** Minutes of the regular Planning Commission Meeting of June 9, 2014.

**ACTION:** Motion made (O'Connor) and seconded (Denton) to approve the Minutes of the regular Planning Commission Meeting of June 9, 2014. Motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Claus, Denton, Newkirk, O'Connor, Whittaker NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None)

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

**C. CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

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**D. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were no Public Hearings.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM 2: Sign Program Permit SPP14-0002 for the multi-tenant commercial office building located at 34052 La Plaza (La Plaza Pacifica).**

Applicant: America West Properties, Inc. / Ashley Lane  
Property Owner: Bettye Trowbridge - Vaughen  
Location: 34052 La Plaza (La Plaza Pacifica)

Request: Approval of a new Sign Program for a multi-tenant commercial office building located at 34052 La Plaza (La Plaza Pacifica).

Environmental: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the project is categorically exempt per Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines (Class 1 – Existing Facilities) in that the project consists of a minor alteration of an existing structure.

Recommendation: That the Planning Commission adopt draft Resolution No. 14-06-23-xx approving Sign Program Permit SPP14-0002 for the building located at 34052 La Plaza.

**Ursula Luna-Reynosa** (Director) introduced Danny Giometti as the City's new Assistant Planner.

**Danny Giometti** (Assistant Planner) presented the staff report and responded to questions.

**There were no Public Comments forthcoming and the Public Comment period for this item was closed.**

**Commissioner Whittaker** stated that if anyone said, "La Plaza Pacifica" location, she would not know where it is because the signage is very subtle at the building. She suggested that if the signs were to be illuminated, they should be readable. She also felt that the signage changes the elevation but the signs are needed and she would support the program.

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**Commissioner Denton** stated that he agrees with Commissioner Whittaker's comment. He stated that this is a step in the right direction, more signs are needed for the building and he would support the program.

**Vice-Chairwoman O'Connor** agreed with Commissioner Whittaker and Commissioner Denton's comment that this is the right thing to do. She stated that to encourage small business owners to prosper she would support the program to bring more customers to their business in Dana Point.

**Commissioner Newkirk** agreed with his fellow Commissioners, and would like to help anyone from getting lost.

**Chairwoman Claus** stated that although this exceeds the 100 square feet, she felt it is very much needed. She stated that it is very nicely done and it will make it easier to find your way along. She asked staff, if signs exceed 100 square feet and coming forward with Town Center projects, if the applications could be handled over the counter.

A dialogue ensued between Commissioner Claus, Mr. Tilton, and Ms. Luna-Reynosa regarding future sign applications, Town Center sign program, amending the City ordinance, upcoming two-way traffic, and a workshop to be scheduled.

**ACTION:** Motion made (O'Connor) and seconded (Newkirk) to adopt Resolution No. 14-06-23-26 approving Sign Program Permit SPP14-0002 for a commercial building, La Plaza Pacifica, located at 34052 La Plaza. Motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Claus, Denton, Newkirk, O'Connor, Whittaker NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None)

**F. STAFF REPORTS**

There were no Staff Reports given.

**G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Denton** suggested staff hold study sessions on any upcoming Town Center projects to inform the Commission and the public.

**Ursula Luna-Reynosa** (Director) replied that study sessions can be considered.

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**Commissioner Denton** wished everyone a Happy and Safe 4th of July Fireworks celebration this year.

**Vice-Chairwoman O'Connor** reported that she had attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Dana Point Food, Wine & Music Festival benefitting the Dana Point 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Corp Regiment Support Group. She congratulated Dana Hills High School graduating class of 2014, the graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chairwoman Claus** announced that the *next* meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Monday, July 14, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter) in the City Council Chamber located at 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 210, Dana Point, California.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

  
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Liz Claus, Chairwoman  
Planning Commission