

**Minutes
Development Review Commission
STUDY SESSION
February 25, 2020**

Minutes of the Study Session of the Development Review Commission, of the City of Tempe, was held in the Tempe History Museum, 809 E Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ

Present:

Chair David Lyon
Vice Chair Michael DiDomenico
Commissioner Thomas Brown
Commissioner Don Cassano
Commissioner Philip Amorosi
Alt Commissioner Michelle Schwartz

City Staff Present:

Chad Weaver, Director, Community Development
Ryan Levesque, Deputy Director, Community Development
Suparna Dasgupta, Principal Planner
Steve Abrahamson, Principal Planner
Karen Stovall, Senior Planner
Diana Kaminski, Senior Planner
Lee Jimenez, Senior Planner
Robbie Aaron, Planning Technician
Joanna Barry, Administrative Assistant II

Absent:

Commissioner Scott Sumners
Commissioner Andrew Johnson
Alt Commissioner Barbara Lloyd
Alt Commissioner Angela Taylor

Chair Lyon began the Study Session at 5:34 p.m.

Review of January 14, 2020 Minutes

- Item #1 - Study Session Minutes – January 14, 2020
- Item #2 - Regular Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2020 – minor corrections
- Item #3 - Study Session Minutes – ~~January 28, 2020~~ – postponed to March 24, 2020 DRC Meeting
- Item #4 - Regular Meeting Minutes – ~~January 28, 2020~~ – postponed to March 24, 2020 DRC Meeting

Review of February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda

- Item #5 – HUDSON LANE CONDOMINIUMS(PL180192) – on consent
- Item #6 – SALAD AND GO (PL200009) – on consent
- Item #7 – UNITEK EMT VOCATIONAL (PL200008) – on consent
- Item #8 – UNIVERSITY LOFTS (PL190227) – to be heard
- Item #9 – 430 W 7TH ST APARTMENTS (PL190217) – to be heard

PRESENTATION: Transit Shelter Design – Presentation by Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner, Engineering and Transportation Department

Ms. Richardson gave a project overview and background of the shelter designs. The goal is to improve ridership by improving the waiting environment and provide an iconic identity for the transit system. There are currently 806 transit stops in Tempe, but only 38% currently have shelters. A transit shelter design steering committee was put together consisting of members who specific skills in design, art and materials research; use the shelters, ride or drive the bus, or manage bus systems; are residents of local businesses, students and property owners; represent ASU Transit, Valley Metro, and First Transit. A community survey was conducted 2019 to rank the type of shelter elements by priority. The responses ranked shade as the first priority, followed by seating, then lighting. Ms. Richardson provided visuals of the types and styles of bus shelters they would be looking into. She advised that they held public meetings on September 21 & 25, 2019 where they received 124 survey responses. They also held public meetings on January 21 & 25, 2020. They will be holding more public meetings on March 25 & 28, 2020, conducting a Tempe Transportation Commission presentation on May 12, 2020, then a City Council presentation on May 14, 2020. Online comments will be taken from March 25, 2020 to April 8, 2020.

Chair Lyon asked what the materials are on the bus shelters, especially the yellow roof and the vertical columns. Ms. Richardson advised that this is still in the concept phase, but the roof will most likely be metal. As for the vertical panels, they were looking into ones that would light, however using a plexi material in the columns would not be vandal resistant so they have given the consultants advice that they need to rethink these.

Commissioner Brown asked if they had thought of having panels where the community could come and decorate them. Ms. Richardson advised that they had worked with some art consultants to have some standardization of the panels so that they could be taken out and public art be put in. They do not currently have public art in their budget. They thought that possibly the neighborhood could come up with some panels to put in the shelters.

Commissioner Amorosi noted that 38% of the 800 bus shelters are currently shaded and asked Ms. Richardson if they have an overarching goal on what they would like to achieve with this addition. Ms. Richardson stated that her goal would be that ever stop where you can get on a bus would have a cool environment, but this would not happen in 5-10 years. The goal is to try to improve every stop, even if it is just concrete.

Commissioner Schwartz advised that she was on the steering committed with Ms. Richardson and would be happy to answer any questions the other Commissioners may have.

Ms. Richardson advised that they would be using City of Tempe colors on the shelters.

Chair Lyon stated that he likes the way Ms. Richardson described the process and believes they are heading in a good direction.

Announcements: Mr. Ryan Levesque, Deputy Director – Community Development, advised the Commission on recent City Council actions:

The appeals for the In-N-Out Burger and South Mountain Retail projects were heard by the City Council on February 13, 2020. The City Council upheld the decision of the Development Review Commission on these projects.

The appeal for the Circle K project will be heard by the City Council on February 27, 2020.

The applicant for Jinstage Tempe project is working with the residents and will then set up a date to appeal decision before the City Council.

An appeal was filed today for the Lewis Residence project that was approved by the Development Review Commission on February 11, 2020.

The Study Session adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Prepared by: Joanna Barry

Reviewed by: Suparna Dasgupta



Suparna Dasgupta, Principal Planner
Community Development, Planning