

**MINUTES
PARKING & MAIN STREET COMMISSION
July 10, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Parking and Main Street Commission of the City of Garden Grove commenced at 7:30 by the recording secretary.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Chairperson Curt Radi
Vice Chair J.J. Jauregui
Commissioner Gary Brown
Commissioner Hooshang Farahmond
Commissioner Audrey Pecor
Commissioner Rebecca Weimer
Commissioner David Zlaket

ALSO PRESENT: Ron Meislahn, Facilities Manager, Karl Hill, Planning Manager, and Ellis Chang, Sr. Accountant, Finance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Radi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 8, 2008

Commissioner Brown motioned, seconded by Commissioner Pecor to approve the minutes as presented.

- The motion carried by all aye votes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Revenue and Expenditure Statement for March, April, and May 2008

No Discussion.

Commissioner Brown moved, seconded by Commission Zlaket to approve the statement for March, April, and May 2008.

The motion carried by all aye votes.

2. Main Street General Plan Update

Commissioner Brown inquired how Main Street fits into the future of Garden Grove.

Mr. Karl Hill responded that the plan is to adopt new policies and procedures to expand and enhance entertainment and other opportunities on Main Street while maintaining it's hometown character and friendly feel; Council to direct staff to work with other departments and the Main Street businesses and property owners to create a vision for Main Street taking into consideration location, size and shape also considering the mixed uses of Main Street. There are some concerns as to how many alcohol licenses would be issued. Mr. Hill explained that making the mixed uses functional and compatible is the goal. He also mentioned that a concerted effort from merchants, and property owners would help to keep the controls that are put in place to keep Main Street a cohesive place to live and do business. He encouraged the Main Street Association to development a vision.

Commissioner Brown inquired if the City was willing to help new events or enterprises in a financial capacity to help ensure the success of any new opportunities that arise.

Mr. Hill encouraged the Commission to solicit other avenues of financial means such as support from Supervisor Janet Nguyen, noting that the City may not be in position to help out financially.

Commissioner Farahmond inquired if merchants should try and improve their businesses now or wait until the General Plan is implemented. He also suggested that the City loosen regulations to promote better more lively businesses.

Commissioner Brown agreed that a vision for Main Street is a good idea. However, he suggested the City provide financial means for upgrades on the outside of Main Street citing that if Main Street had better aesthetics the rest would follow as far as getting quality businesses because the outside looks good and well maintained. He feels that residents need to see improvements on Main Street.

Commissioner Zlaket doesn't believe the financial support should come from the business owners. The business owners are looking for leadership from the City. The City helped Costco and Home Depot but has not helped Main Street.

Mr. Hill suggested the Main Street business owners come together and support each other in encouraging visitors to Main Street such as putting together a brochure promoting Main Street and placing in hotels.

Mike Silva, 12939 Main Street, addressed the Commission. Mr. Silva commented that all the parties involved, the City, merchants, and business owners should stop pointing fingers and all take part in the solution and be on the same page.

Peter Katz addressed the Commission. He would like the Commission to adopt a resolution to incorporate into the General Plan. He used the City of Anaheim's Garden Walk as a model for Main Street. He suggested a marketing plan and working with the City, the Chamber of Commerce and the Garden Grove Journal. He urged the Commission to give their support to the General Plan so action can start to take place.

Commissioner Brown believes a vision is for Main Street to become what the merchants, property owners, and the City want it to be.

Commissioner Faramond believes that the businesses have limited power and limited time, as they are busy running their businesses. He believes it is up to the leadership of the City to improve Main Street.

Commissioner Pecor, coming from the property owners view point, stated that you cannot legislate what types of businesses you get offers from; but you accept those that come because you don't want to have a vacant property.

Commissioner Zlaket inquired about the building that is in progress. Have they received their permits?

Mr. Hill said the business is working with the City to pull the required permits.

Commissioner Brown was under the assumption that the Planning Commission was to bring new site plans and demolition plans to the Parking and Main Street Commission for consideration prior to the issuance of any permits.

Chair Radi inquired if the City could do anything about the wood barricade that is obstructing the public way in front of 12941 Main Street.

Mr. Hill said he would speak with the building division to inquire if the wood barricade could be pushed back out of the public way.

The Commission is willing to call special meetings to meet with new developers and planning staff any time a new project is proposed on Main Street.

Commissioner Weimer encouraged the commissioners to attend the next Planning Commission meeting.

3. Go Local

This item was tabled for next meeting.

Other Matters

Commissioner Farahmond asked the Commission for its support to the Garden Grove Planning Commission, to upgrade his ABC liquor license. Peter Katz presented the issue for Commissioner Farahmond. Mr. Katz also encouraged the Commissioners to attend a meeting this evening of the Garden Grove Downtown Business Association with the Garden Grove Police Department.

It was noted that if there were an objection from any commissioner, that commissioner should attend the next planning commission meeting and voice his/her concern at that time. Otherwise, there was no objection from the Commission regarding Commissioner Farahmond's request to support the upgrade of his ABC liquor license.

Commissioner Brown inquired about the pick up of mattresses dumped at the trash receptacle behind the Pavilion building on the corner of Main Street and Acacia.

Mr. Meislahn stated that the mattress would be picked up the following day.

Commission Weimer announced the Downtown Business Association is having a fundraiser at the Gem Theatre on July 27, 2008.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rosemarie Jacot
Recording Secretary