

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2014**

Chair Humphreville called the regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Planning commission to order at 6:00p.m.

Commissioners present were Bridenstine, Drozd, Lavender, Whitten and Chair Humphreville.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Humphreville

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Bridenstine moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Whitten seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, CUP 02-04 AMENDMENT #1PANDA EXPRESS-TACO BELL TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP, TPM 19525 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, EA 04-13 EIR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2004071127**

Proposal to subdivide approximately 26 acres of commercially zoned property into three parcels of 0.84 acre, 0.75 acre and 23.88 acres and to construct a 2,230 square foot Panda Express and a 2,423 square foot Taco Bell. A total of 51 onsite parking spaces are proposed with drive aisles. The property is located at the south east corner of SR 62 and Avalon Avenue and is also described as Assessor Parcel Number 601-201-37.

The review and approval of the Yucca Valley Retail Specific Plan included a project Environmental Impact Report (EIR), State Clearinghouse #2004071127. The EIR evaluated future projects within the boundaries of the Yucca Valley Retail Specific Plan. The proposed project was evaluated to determine if additional CEQA documentation needed to be prepared. The proposed project will not have any effects not considered within the scope of the program EIR. The project is consistent with project EIR and will not create any additional impacts not previously considered. No additional environmental review is required.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle gave a staff report and PowerPoint presentation outlining the project. The proposed project involves dividing a 26 acre lot into 3 parcels, two of which will be slightly less than one acre with the Super Wal-Mart retaining a 23.88 acre parcel, and the construction of a 2,230 sq ft Panda Express and a 2,423 sq ft Taco Bell with onsite parking allocated to each of the individual uses. It was the staff's finding that the project is included in the previously completed EIR for the Super Wal-Mart project. It will be attached to the existed Walmart package treatment plat, and the zoning is consistent with the Town's General Plan land use designations.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle went on to explain that the site plan had be revised based on the discussions with staff. The site plan does not include any direct access to either Twentynine Palms Highway or Avalon Avenue. It does contain the two points of access mandated by the San Bernardino County Fire Department, but due to grade and other constraints, the driveways are located close together on the north side of the site. The revised site plan contains a separate exit for the drive-thru in response to staff's concerns about pedestrian access in the original site plan.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle also spoke briefly about the proposed architecture. The building height at the top of the parapet for Panda Express is approximately 22ft, and 22ft at top of the tower element for Taco Bell. The one design concern expressed by staff is due to the fact that the trash enclosure is located farther from the buildings than is usual and is in a more visible location. Staff has asked that more additional decorative elements, such a wrought iron, be included than is typically seen around trash enclosures. The applicant also submitted a revised grading and drainage plan in line with the revised site plan.

Staff recommended that the Planning Commission finds the project exempt from further environmental review, and approves both the Conditional Use Permit, CUP 02-04, and the Tentative Parcel Map, TPM 19525, based upon the findings and Conditions of Approval.

Chairman Humphreville invited the representatives of the applicants to speak. Gary Wang of Gary Wang and Associates, the architect for Panda Express, and Charlie Shen from CFT Developments, LLC both offered to answer any of the Commission's questions.

Commissioner Bridenstine asked about the relative lack parking close to the entrance to the Panda Express in comparison to the parking near the Taco Bell. She also asked if there was information about what percentage of Panda Express customers use the drive-thru rather than the dining area.

Charlie Shen replied that the percentage of customers using the drive-thru is usually between 30-60% depending on location and other factors. He said that more detailed information can be provided. Gary Wang also stated that they will include pedestrian crossing hash marks to help protect customers crossing between the parking areas.

Commissioner Whitten commented that in his experience Panda Express tended to have fewer sit down customers than Taco Bell. He also asked about a stop sign at the end of the drive-thru, and speed limit signs.

Gary Wang replied that they were intending to include some kind of traffic control device such as stop signs or speed bumps.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle stated that the Town does not typically regulated on site driving speeds limits. It is more typical to use stop signs and pedestrian cross walks to regulate on site traffic rather than speed limit signs.

Commissioner Whitten asked about some other options for positioning the drive-thru exit. Mr Wang and Mr. Shen explained that because of a combination of grading issues and issues with Wal-Mart the alternative positions of drive-thru weren't possible.

Commissioner Whitten also asked about the silting basin, and was informed by Mr. Wang that project will be tied into the existing lines.

Chairman Humphreville asked if the applicants intended to include the wrought iron decorative elements on the trash enclosure, and Commissioner Drozd asked what kind of wrought iron décor they intend to include.

Mr. Wang replied that they do intend to include the requested decorative elements, and the décor will fit the theme of the shopping center.

Commissioner Drozd asked for clarification on whether the Environmental Assessment was number EA 04-13 or 05-13. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that the EA 04-13 number was a typo in the packet and EA 05-13 was the correct designation.

Commissioner Lavender asked if the landscaping was being designed with water conservation issues such as permeable surfaces in mind.

Mr. Wang replied that staff had informed them of these concerns and the landscaping is being designed with them in mind.

With no further question for the applicants from the Commission, Chairman Humphreville opened the floor to Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, expressed concerned over water usage and how that is being addressed. She wished to know if the Planning Commission has made sure that these issues are being addressed.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied on behalf of staff that both projects are attached to the packaged treatment plant, and that no new facilities will be constructed.

With no further speakers, Chairman Humphreville closed public comments.

Commissioner Whitten moved to find the project exempt from further environmental review, and approve both the Conditional Use Permit, CUP 02-04, and the Tentative Parcel Map, TPM 19525, based upon the findings and Conditions of Approval. Chairman Humphreville seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE ARTICLE 3

Proposed amendment to Title 9, Yucca Valley Development Code adding Article 3, Chapter 9.30 thru Chapter 9.46, General Development Standards, providing standards for Dedications and Infrastructure Improvements, Landscaping, Parking, Performance Standards, Property Maintenance, Sign Regulations, Soil Erosion and Dust Control, Temporary Special Events, Temporary Uses, Surface Mining and Land Reclamation, Trip Reduction, Accessory Energy Systems, Wireless Communication Facilities, and Cemeteries and repealing Municipal Code Sections 41.151 thru 41.1569 and Development Code Sections 84.0701 thru 84.0740, 87.0201 thru 87.220, 87.0401 thru 87.0405, 87.0505, 87.0601 thru 87.0645, 87.0710 thru 87.07190, 87.0901 thru 87.0940, 88.0805 thru 88.0810, 810.0101 thru 810.0135, 810.0201 thru 810.0275, and 9.75.010 thru 9.75.130.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report. This meeting was intended as a refresher on the issues which need to be addressed by the Planning Commission so that staff can draft final changes for the proposed amendments to Title 9, Yucca Valley Development Code adding Article 3, Chapter 9.30 thru Chapter 9.46, and staff requested a commissioner dialogue on these issues. Staff would also like to put sign regulations on hold during this process as they should be treated as their own item. The Chapters in question and the areas in particular need of discussion are:

- Chapter 9.30 Dedication and Infrastructure Improvements
 - Staff asks that the Commission discuss the issues associated with what lot sizes require paved access roads, as well as non-residential requirements for full access including streetlights.
- Chapter 9.31 General Development Standards
 - Staff asks that the Commission discuss the issues associated with the exemptions to building height restrictions in the standards for the clear sight triangle.
- Chapter 9.32 Landscaping and Water Conservation
 - There is a new state law in effect mandating an update to city and county water ordinances. Staff drafted language that states that as long as the Water District is undergoing the technical analysis of that portion of the law, the town is not going to duplicate that effort. There is a question of how much landscaping, if any, is going to be required for new development.
- Chapter 9.33 Parking and Loading Regulations
- Chapter 9.34 Performance Standards
 - Several elements in this section were based on county codes, and staff is in the process of going over them with the county to ascertain their applicability to this community.
- Chapter 9.35 Property Maintenance Standards
 - There was a previous discussion regarding the need to provide the necessary flexibility without creating an over enforcement problem.
- Chapter 9.36 Sign Regulations
- Chapter 9.37 Soil Erosion and Dust Control
 - Staff has attempted to minimize the number of regulations and to leave the language more general to allow for a more case by case basis.
- Chapter 9.38 Temporary Special Events
 - Commission may wish to consider if there are additional types of special events which need to be included in the regulations, or any changes in the time limits which may need to be made.
- Chapter 9.39 Temporary Uses and Structures
 - There is more staff work to be done in this area
- Chapter 9.40 Surface Mining and Land Reclamation
- Chapter 9.41 Trip Reduction Requirements
- Chapter 9.42 Accessory Solar Energy Systems
- Chapter 9.43 Accessory Wind Energy Systems
- Chapter 9.44 Wireless Communications Facilities
 - Staff has identified some situations where the process may be simplified.
- Chapter 9.45 Cemeteries
- Chapter 9.46 Renewable Energy Generation Facilities

After the conclusion of the staff's report, Chairman Humphreville opened the floor to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, commented on Chapter 9.30.050, Delayed Improvements in Bonding. Ms. Sturges stated that it was her belief that the AMPM facility was given certificate of occupancy before all conditions of occupancy were met, and that it is currently an unsafe set up. She objects to the ability to wave or delay requirements, as decisions made may not follow the guidelines requiring that it not effect health or safety.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle spoke in response the public comments. He stated that there was no waver of requirements of conditions of occupancy for the AMPM. The only improvements that were not completed were Cal-Trans projects. The staff may agree with the public comment in some sections of the code. There is a legal requirement to require more than one kind of performance guarantee.

With no further speakers, Chairman Humphreville closed Public Comments.

Chairman Humphreville opened discussion of Chapter 9.30 with the Commission. There was general Commission consensus on a one acre minimum requirement for paved road access.

Commissioner Whitten asked if this section would be the appropriate section to address the issue of what improvements the Town will and won't make to private roads.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that this section authorizes the Commission to require easements, but does not go into the specifics of whether they are publicly or privately maintained, and that language is not located anywhere within the draft code at this point. The current system was inherited from San Bernardino County and considers roads that were not constructed up to county standards as private roads and were not accepted into the County's maintained road system. Commissioner Whitten believes that this approach needs to be documented in the code language.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle also pointed out that there have been several subdivisions of 2.5 acres which have roads on 3 or 4 sides and a requirement of dedication of easements for public purposes, but as the density was less than one unit per acre, there was no requirement to create improvements, and the roads are privately maintained. Previously there has not been the requirement for a formal type of district; there is just a requirement of a map notation that the property owner is responsible for those roads. This may be an issue to be addressed in the code.

Commissioner Whitten expressed concern over the issues raised by the proposed repairs to Blackrock Road, and called for documentation in the code to prevent an all or nothing scenario. Chairman Humphreville asked if this is the section where language addressing this issue could be included.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that he would need to look at this element more closely, but this is probably the correct section. One issue that has come up before is that it would be nice if there was a way to draw a line in the sand so that we are communicating that the roads outside this line are always going to be privately maintained.

Commissioner Bridenstine raised the issue of streetlights. It was her belief that the commission had agreed that streetlights were necessary in a limited amount for safety at the entrance of subdivision or the intersection of a major arterial. She believes there may need to be a qualifier included in the language.

Chairman Humphreville asked if the current code language would allow a new subdivision to put in street lights if they wanted to. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that under the current code language they would not be allowed to put in street lights. However as far as the spacing issue, implementation is

different than the standards, and that standard may need to be modified to reflect current practice. Chairman Humphreville believes this issue may need further discussion.

Commissioner Lavender stated that putting too many conditions on things may limit community development.

Chairman Humphreville introduced a discussion on Chapter 9.31, General Development Standards. He believes that the Commission had previously had a discussion on the issue of building height issue and agreed upon a standard in which a lot of three quarters of an acre or less would be allowed 10% rather than 25 feet. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle stated that they will go back and read those minutes.

Commissioner Whitten asked if the Clear Sight Triangle standards apply to private roads.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that under current practice Clear Sight Triangle does not apply because the town does not exercise dominion or control of non-maintained roads. Commissioner Lavender commented that on these roads it is difficult to locate the Clear Sight Triangle because the roads themselves are hard to find.

Commissioner Bridenstine brought up the issue of parking lot exits along busy roads, and asked if the Clear Sight Triangle standards should be applied to parking lot entrances. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle stated that there is language that states that the Clear Sight Triangle standards apply to driveways, but it may need to be expanded. Commissioner Bridenstine said that she believes the language should be expanded to more specifically address the commercial driveway.

Commissioner Bridenstine asked how bushes and the like that obstruct the Clear Sight Triangle are dealt with. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle responded that Code Enforcement addresses some issues, while the Public Works crew addresses others.

Commissioner Drozd commented on Chapter 9.32. Mr. Drozd asked about how the total landscape area as referenced in the code was calculated. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle provided a brief answer and reminded the Commission that the standards the Town uses come from state regulations. He stated that Staff is satisfied with the commercial requirements, but would like the Commission's input on whether or there should be minimum standards for new single family residential subdivisions and for infill single family development.

Chairman Humphreville spoke on the issue of landscaping. He believes that the Hi-Water District does a good job of penalizing landscaping that is not drought tolerant through their tiered rate system. He agrees that standards for commercial landscaping should be in place. It is his feeling that there shouldn't be minimum standards of landscaping for residential lots in small subdivisions. He believes that developers are going to do what is necessary to sell lots, and that they should penalize new home buyers who may not be aware of standards when they change the landscaping.

Commissioner Bridenstine agrees with Chairman Humphreville for the most part, but does have some concerns that where there are issues of erosion control there should be some kind of standards. She also brought up the monotony of the landscaping in the Copper Hills track. Chairman Humphreville agreed that minimum standards might encourage minimum standard landscaping. Commissioner Bridenstine also stated that if you require the developer to provide landscaping it will be the cheapest and easiest option as opposed to a home owner, and perhaps the home owner should be required to do something. She also reiterated that there is a big erosion problem, and that needs to be taken into account.

Commissioner Whitten spoke about sewer project, and asked what the Water District's plans are in regards to reclaimed treated water including the possibility of including a purple pipe system in the Town to tap into treated water for irrigation needs. He also believes that drought tolerance and permeable surfaces are important elements. He said he did not see those terms in the section. He also asked if there were ways we can allow developers to innovate and use newer technologies.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle responded by explaining that the Water District's plan does not currently allow for the use of treated water for irrigation. There were a number of discussions with the Water District about the feasibility of a purple pipe system, but it was highly cost prohibitive. As far as staff is aware the treated water will be used for recharging the aquifer. He also stated that there is room for language regarding drought tolerance, permeable surfaces, catch basins and the like. Chairman Humphreville added that the Water District quoted five million dollars just for the installation of a purple pipe from the treatment facility to the golf course.

Commissioner Bridenstine asked if regulations allow for the use of grey water for irrigation. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle believes that state law allows for the use of grey water in irrigation as long as the water does not come above ground, but it was his understanding that the technology did not make it a very effective method for many property owners. Commissioner Bridenstine stated that she believes that the technology has improved.

Chairman Humphreville added that he has installed grey water irrigation systems in homes during new construction and that in the past there have been programs through the Water District that help subsidize those installations, and that funding may still be available. Commissioner Whitten asked if the new water efficient appliances would have any effect on the usefulness of grey water systems. Chairman Humphreville said that washers and showers are the largest generators of grey water, and believes that if the Water District grey water program is still available, other programs should not be mandated. Both Commissioners Bridenstine and Whitten agreed that there should not be mandates put into place, but that the information about options should be made available in the code.

Chairman Humphreville introduced a discussion of Chapter 9.33, Parking and Loading Regulations. He stated that he believed he had had a previous conversation with Deputy Town Manager Stueckle about the number of parking spaces required for golf courses under the current code. He believes that six spaces per hole is excessive.

Commissioner Bridenstine raised the issue that the ordinance does not currently address parking at parks and also asked if there has been a discussion about using shared parking facilities for businesses that can share parking due to situations such as separation of hours. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that staff will look at the parking regulations to make sure that parks are adequately addressed and that staff agrees the shared parking concept should be included and that if there is not adequate language in the code, it should be added.

Commissioner Whitten said that we need to address RV parking and the space calculations of two parking spaces for single family dwellings. Two parking spaces may not be enough given current driving practices.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle asked that the Commission talk about what they envision for RV parking regulations, both commercial and residential. He also said that it is common for a family to have more vehicles than fit in a two car carport or garage. The Town of Yucca Valley does not have any regulations that limit the number of vehicles which can be parked on a lot outside of the covered spaces. Commissioner Whitten asked for confirmation that minimum two space requirement did not include driveway parking, which Deputy Town Manager Stueckle provided. Commissioner Whitten also stated

that he felt they need to separate non-operational and operational vehicle parking in uncovered spaces in the code.

Commissioner Whitten stated that he felt there should be some kinds of standards for covered RV parking in residential areas. He also said that commercial parking that allows RVs to park in their lots overnight, such as Wal-Mart, should be required to have dedicated parking spaces, rather than allowing the RVs to park across multiple spaces.

Commissioner Bridenstine added that she does not feel that RVs should be required to be kept in a covered parking space. Commissioner Whitten clarified that he didn't think covered parking should be required but given as an option. Commissioner Bridenstine felt that the construction of covered RV parking would fall under an auxiliary structure ordinance rather than a parking ordinance. She felt that the Town should be wary of putting too many restrictions on the parking of RVs. Chairman Humphreville agreed that RV parking should be allowed on lots, but added that it should be restricted on the street. He also expressed concern over square footage restrictions for garages causing bad design elements.

Commissioner Whitten said that he feel that RV parking on smaller lots is problematic. He said in the Copper Hills development there are RV's parked in front yards, not in parking spaces or backyards. He feels that this needs to be addressed for certain sizes of lots. Chairman Humphreville asked if that is something that could be included in the CC&Rs for new subdivision development. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that there are currently subdivisions with CC&Rs in place, but there are no longer homeowner associations enforcing those CC&Rs, and the Town cannot enforce CC&Rs. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle believes that this issue involves multiple code elements, including auxiliary structures and subdivision design. He also said that we need to be looking at what the appropriate lot size is for side yard access for recreational vehicles in subdivisions. Chairman Humphreville suggested that subdivisions with smaller lot sizes include a shared recreational vehicle parking area. Commissioner Whitten agreed that that is something that should potentially be included in the code. Commissioner Whitten also brought up the concern that RV parking in yards can cause damage to septic tanks.

Chairman Humphreville asked for any comments from the commissioners on the Performance Standards section of the code. Receiving none he moved on to the Property Maintenance Standards.

Chairman Humphreville and Commissioner Whitten agreed that Property Maintenance Standards should be complaint driven. Commissioner Whitten asked if there was any way to incorporate some kind of objective severity standards into the code language in cases such as damage to screen doors. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that that might be difficult language to draft. Commissioner Whitten also asked how someone was supposed to determine if a roof is leaking from the street. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that that section of the code was usually applied when there are large sections of roofing material missing, or a tarp which has been in place for several months. Commissioner Bridenstine also expressed concern over the lack of severity standards in the case of cracked stucco, given that environmental factors cause a general amount of wear and tear.

Chairman Humphreville reported on the work he had been doing on the sign ordinance issue. He has had multiple meetings with businesses and the Chamber of Commerce, and doesn't think there are any options that will make everyone happy. He had three proposed changes that he would like the Commission to consider. First, for 0 to 7,500 square feet, adding a 10% increase in sign size on buildings. Secondly for 7,500 to 20,000 square feet, adding a 10% increase in signage on the building and/or a second monument sign. Finally, in the larger shopping centers, adding a second monument sign with a spacing requirement would allow more business to have highway frontage signage. The Commission came to a consensus that business community's input is needed on this issue, and that the Commission should hold a workshop on this issue.

Chairman Humphreville called a brief recess, after which the meeting resumed.

Chairman Humphreville introduced a discussion of Chapter 9.37, Soil Erosion and Dust Control. He commented that in his experience the biggest problem with dust is caused by the baseball fields. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle informed the commission that the town mixes clay into its fields to keep the dust down and the clay has currently worn down to a minimal level. Once the clay is reintroduced the dust issue will be greatly reduced. Commissioner Whitten asked if there were any issues with the Mohave Desert Air Quality Management District. Deputy Town Manger Stueckle said that the Mohave Desert Air Quality Management District waves dust control issues when the wind rises above certain speeds.

Chairman Humphreville introduced a discussion of Chapter 9.38, Temporary Special Events. Commissioner Drozd asked about the limited number of church revival events allowed per year compared with some of the other activities. He felt that the number should perhaps be higher. Commissioner Whitten said that he thought that special events were good for the community and there shouldn't be a maximum number imposed. Instead the limit should be dependent on staff time. Deputy Town Manger Stueckle was asked to explain the reasoning behind the current limits. He explained that the goal of the limits was to prevent a semi-permanent activity occurring on a site without any improvements being made. In the current ordinance the number of events is high, and it runs by location rather than the organization involved. Chairman Humphreville asked if a location has ever reached the maximum number of allowed events, and was informed that no location ever has. Chairman Humphreville suggested that instead of a maximum number, it becomes a complaint driven issue, but also suggested waiting until it is an issue. Commissioner Bridenstine suggested that maximum limits could be at the director's discretion.

Commissioner Drozd said he does see a reason to limit the number of yard sale type activities allowed at a location. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that the consultant when they were originally drafting this ordinance suggested limiting the number of garages sales and requiring permits, but the Town has so far chosen not to peruse that option. Commissioners Drozd, Humphreville and Whitten do not want to require permits for yard sales

Commissioner Whitten asked what the Yucca Valley Swap Meet was operating as. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that that particular use has been going on for a long period of time, but under current standards it would fall under the code regulating swap meets. Diane Olsen read out the relevant section of code. There was a general consensus among the commission that some form of those regulations should be included in Chapter 9.38. Commissioner Lavender said that he doesn't want to outlaw yard sales. Commissioner Whitten asked if advertised estate sales or auctions would fall under special events or garage sales. Chairman Humphreville asked for and received confirmation that under the current ordinances there are options for code enforcement if there are complaints.

Chairman Humphreville introduced a discussion of Chapter 9.39, Temporary Uses. Commissioner Bridenstine asked if this is the section of the ordinances which should govern temporary storage pods. She provided an example of a business which was denied the use of temporary storage pods while its property was undergoing repairs. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that that kind of permit is usually attached to a building permit. Staff agreed to look at the code and see if language needs to be included to cover situations where no building permit is required.

Commissioner Whitten asked about individuals camping on property while it is being built or repaired. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that the current practice is that the Town issues a temporary use permit for temporary occupancy on the property as part of the building permit, and that staff will make sure that language is in the code.

Chairman Humphreville asked for any comments on 9.40, Surface Mining and Land Reclamation. Commissioner Drozd asked if that language could be removed from the code. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that staff would have to find out if removing that language is allowable under state law.

Chairman Humphreville introduced a discussion on Chapter 9.41, Trip Reduction Requirements, and asked if the current ordinances meet state requirements. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that the current ordinances do meet state requirements and that the current standards could be considered minimal. Commissioner Whitten asked if including common storage areas in subdivisions would involve trip reduction requirements. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, said that it was unlikely except if a large enough subdivision was built. Those kind of improvements are unlikely in smaller subdivisions.

Chairman Humphreville introduced a discussion on Chapter 9.42, Accessory Solar Energy Systems. Commissioner Whitten spoke about solar easements in the case where neighboring building height may block solar panels. Chairman Humphreville suggested that that issue might be taken care of by changing the allowable height increase to 10%. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that this issue may be addressed in Article 2. Chairman Humphreville brought up new developments that are being constructed as solar ready, and asked if any kinds of requirement should be added to screen those elements. He also said that it was his understanding that the state limits what kind so restrictions can be put on conversion of existing structures.

Chairman Humphreville introduced Chapter 9.43, Accessory Wind Energy Systems, and said he is happy with the one acre minimum requirement. Commissioner Bridenstine agreed. Commissioner Whitten said that there are systems now that can fit on a parcel smaller than one acre, and do not rise very high above the roof line. Commissioner Bridenstine said that the current regulations are not keeping property owners from using alternative energy sources, they are just stating that some parcels are better suited to wind or solar. Commissioner Whitten said that he believes that the technology for wind generation has improved and that the current ordinance takes away options. Chairman Humphreville brought up the possibility of a limit based on decibel level at the property line, but said that this solution would address the problem of view obstruction. Commissioner Bridenstine agreed that there would still be a problem with view obstruction. Chairman Humphreville suggested leaving the ordinance as it is and returning to it again if the demand for wind turbines increases. Commissioner Whitten believes that there should be some mechanism for exceptions in the code. Commissioner Bridenstine believes that having an ordinance in places gives the Town the tools to protect the viewshed. Commissioner Whitten suggested looking at the Twentynine Palms mechanism as an alternative which might create more flexibility. Commissioner Lavender asked if Building and Safety was involved in determining whether or not solar systems were a scam. Deputy Town Manger Stueckle responded that Building and Safety checks the safety of the connections but does not oversee the efficiency of the systems themselves.

Chairman Humphreville asked for comments on Chapter 9.44, Wireless Communication Facilities, and was informed by Deputy Town Manager Stueckle that the commission take into account that there are some elements that staff would like to make some further changes to, but that the ordinances is mostly solid.

Chairman Humphreville asked if there were any comments on Chapter 9.45, Cemeteries. There were none.

Chairman Humphreville asked if there were any comments on Chapter 9.46, Renewable Energy Generation Facilities. There were none.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle thanked the Commission, on behalf of the staff, for its input on this issue. Staff will take direction from the Commission's previous minutes, as well as notes from this

meeting, and make revisions. The staff recommends that the Planning Commission continues the public hearing to the March 25, 2014 Planning Commission meeting to allow staff to make final changes for Commission consideration.

Commissioner Whitten moved that the Commission continue the public hearing to the March 25th, 2014 Planning Commission meeting to allow staff to make final changes for Commission consideration. The motion was seconded by Chairman Humphreville and was approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT REGULATIONS

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle provided the staff report. He reminded the Commission that there had previously been a lengthy discussion of the Home Occupation Permit Regulations over what are appropriate types of home based businesses as the result of home based businesses requesting federal and state firearms licenses. He provided an over view of the current ordinance for the three tiers of home based businesses. Staff would like input from the Commission on the issue of whether or not the ordinances address the physical differences between lots of different sizes, and provided the example of a business on a two and a half acre lot, which is far away from any neighboring structures, having a small amount of outdoor storage. He also acknowledged that due to the late hour, the Commission may choose to continue the discussion on this issue at a later date.

After the conclusion of the staff's report, Chairman Humphreville opened the floor to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, is concerned over this issue and believes this is a topic that needs to be work shopped. She is feels that selling weapons out of the home in rented locations like apartment complexes may affect the expectation of quiet enjoyment of renters and the liability of a landlord. She believes that the neighborhood dislikes the idea of weapon sales, and it should be limited to large lots.

Chairman Humphreville asked for staff discussion on this issue, and Deputy Town Manager Stueckle said that because this is a complex issue with many elements to be considered, staff believes that this item requires further discussion at a later date.

Chairman Humphreville asked if the ordinance as it is written now gives the town the flexibility to work with the businesses like the earlier example of a home based business on a two and a half acre lot with outside storage. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that under the current ordinances staff was not able to find any way to address this issue, and staff believes there needs to be some modifications to the ordinance.

Commissioner Lavender said that he believes that most Yucca Valley citizens are against residential gun sales.

Commissioner Whitten believes that there should be a workshop, and that regulations need to be changed to reflect the changing climate regarding guns. He also believes that the Town should send a building inspector to make sure a home fits home occupation permit. He also suggest that these permits come to Planning Commission for review, and that permitted operating hours be changed. He believes that 7:00am

is too early and 8:00pm is too late. He also thinks that home animal rescue and home animal care and boarding should be prohibited, and believes that this should be revisited in a workshop.

Commissioner Drozd suggested that arm sales under a certain lot size should prohibit ammunition sales.

There was a consensus among the Commissioners that a workshop in this issue would be appropriate.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle agreed that this will be revisited at a later date for further discussion.

There was no motion, but there was a consensus to hold a workshop at a later date

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. 2013 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Government Code Section 65400 mandates that all cities and counties submit to their legislative bodies an annual report on the status of the General Plan and progress on its implementation. The report must then be filed with the state's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). This annual review addresses the January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 time period.

2. MINUTES

A request that the Planning Commission approve as submitted the minutes of the meetings held on October 08, 2013, November 12, 2013 and February 11, 2014.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Commissioner Whitten moved that the Commission approve Consent Agenda items one and two. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bridenstine and was carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Development Code Update - Article 3
Site Plan Review 01-24 – Phase 1 Hawks Landing

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND REQUESTS:

Commissioner Drozd thanked everyone for their participation.

Commissioner Lavender stated that it was a good discussion and he appreciates that.

Commissioner Whitten said that he wanted to know where adult orientated businesses are covered in the code. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle replied that it is covered in Article 2, and that conversation will be coming forward. Commissioner Whitten also stated that the recent rainstorm may have identified some

drainage issues created by the new medians. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that the Highway intersections with Inca and Fox have historically been the high flood points, and the flooding issues preexists the median project. Staff began looking into options to create some better drainage in that area prior to the median project, and this is an ongoing issue.

Vice Chairman Bridenstine had no further comments.

Chairman Humphreville had no further comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Planning Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Brucker
Secretary