

PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting
City Hall Large Conference Room
8200 Westminster Boulevard
Westminster, CA 92683
October 19, 2005
6:30 p.m.

- Call to Order** The Planning Commission of the City of Westminster met in a regular session on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 called to order in the City Hall Large Conference Room, at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Turro.
- Roll Call** Commissioners present: Bertels, Cruz, Krippner, Nguyen, Turro
Commissioner absent: None
- Staff Attendance** Art Bashmakian, Interim Planning Director; Melody Gillette, Contract Planner; Maria Moya, Department Secretary; and Christian Bettenhausen, Deputy City Attorney
- Salute to the Flag** All persons present joined in the Salute to the Flag, conducted by Commissioner Bertels.
- Approval of Minutes** The minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2005 were approved on motion of Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Nguyen, and carried 5-0.
- Oral Communications** There were no Oral Communications received.
- Written Communications** There were no Written Communications received.
- Public Hearing** A. Case No. 2005-53 – Design Review and Site Plan. Located at 13822 Beach Boulevard. New Wireless Communications Facility. A proposal to construct a new wireless communications facility.
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Case No. 2005-53 (DR, SP) subject to the conditions stated in the attached draft resolution
- Ms. Melody Gillette provided a brief presentation on the background of the proposal and discussed the findings required for

approval of the new wireless communications facility. With the recommended conditions of approval, Ms. Gillette supported approving the design review and site plan to construct a new wireless communications facility.

Mr. Christian Bettenhausen arrived at 6:35 p.m.

The public hearing was opened.

Speaking in favor was the applicant, Ms. Kerri Simmons of Infranext, Inc., 2200 Orangewood Avenue, Orange. She stated that the proposed wireless communications facility was necessary to restore lost coverage for Cingular customers after Cingular purchased AT&T.

No one spoke in opposition and the public hearing was closed.

Motion

Commissioner Bertels moved that the Planning Commission approve Case No. 2005-53 (DR, SP) subject to the conditions in the draft resolution. Commissioner Cruz seconded.

In response to Commissioner Krippner, Ms. Simmons indicated that not only would Cingular and AT&T customers benefit from this cellular site, but customers from other carriers who cannot roam in this area can use the antennas since it is the largest network after Cingular's merger with AT&T.

Since the screening of the proposed facility would be consistent with the building and its height would have minimal visual impact, Chairman Turro expressed support for the project.

Commissioner Cruz asked about the GPS system and Ms. Simmons explained that the GPS system is for emergency 911 calls that would register with the Police Department who can check the global positioning of the caller. This system is now required for all communications facilities.

The motion carried 5-0.

New Business

There was no New Business scheduled for review.

Old Business

There was no Old Business scheduled for review.

Administrative Approvals

The Planning Commission received notification that there was no administrative approvals during this reporting period.

Reports and Comments:

Planning Director Mr. Art Bashmakian requested the Planning Commission to review the revised plans for Case No. 2003-22, previously approved by the Commission, and determine if it substantially conforms to the previously approved design. If the Commission determines it conforms, staff will process the revised plans administratively. If not, the applicant will be required to submit a new application for Planning Commission’s consideration in a public hearing. He displayed and compared the original plans and the revised plans which illustrate a height increase of 9 feet; office space increase by 3,200 sq. feet; semi-subterranean parking; but maintaining the same dimensions.

Commissioner Krippner wanted to know if the applicant submitted the plans within the twelve-month period. Mr. Bashmakian stated that if the records reveal that the applicant did not submit the plans in a timely manner, the proposal would have to be reconsidered by the Commission in a public hearing.

Commissioner Krippner noticed the plans did not provide handicapped parking and lacked the architect’s seal. Due to the substantial changes in the plans, he called it up for the Commission’s consideration in another scheduled public hearing. The Commission unanimously agreed there was significant evidence to suggest that the current design is substantially different from the original design which requires that the design review be brought up again before the Commission for further review.

He indicated there will be two items in the next Planning Commission meeting scheduled on November 2, 2005, Case No. 2005-48 – Conditional Use Permit 15348 Beach – on sale beer and wine at restaurant; and for New Business – Case No. 2005-32 7302 20th Street – new triplex.

City Attorney None

Planning Commissioners None

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Moya
Department Secretary