

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION
CITY OF PALM DESERT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

August 27, 2024, 12:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner James Blakeley, Commissioner Dean Wallace Colvard, Commissioner Nicholas Latkovic, Commissioner Michael McAuliffe, Commissioner Francisco Sanchez

Absent: Commissioner James McIntosh, Chair John Vuksic

Staff Present: Principal Planner Carlos Flores, Principal Planner Nick Melloni, Associate Planner Kenny Taylor, Recording Secretary Melinda Gonzalez

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Architectural Review Commission (ARC) was called to order by Commissioner McAuliffe on August 27, 2024, at 12:31 p.m. in the Development Services Conference Room, City Hall, located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

2. ROLL CALL

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner McAuliffe opened and closed the public comment period for Non-Agenda public comment. No public comments were provided.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

Motion by: Commissioner Colvard

Seconded by: Commissioner Blakeley

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Architectural Review Commission regular meeting minutes of July 23, 2024, were approved as presented.

Motion by: Commissioner Colvard

Seconded by: Commissioner Blakeley

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

None

6. ACTION CALENDAR

6.a CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF A DESIGN REVIEW FOR A FAÇADE RENOVATION AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR A NEW JEWELRY STORE HOPE DIAMONDS & COMPANY AT 72990 HIGHWAY 111 (CONTINUED FROM MAY 14, 2024)

Associate Planner, Kenny Taylor, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to Commission inquiries. German Santamaria, Applicant, Jimmy Ozasi, Business Owner, and Frank Figueroa, Construction Manager, were present.

Commissioner McAuliffe opened the public comment period and invited the applicant to speak. Jimmy Ozasi, Business Owner, stated he had no additional comments to provide to staff's presentation. Mr. Ozasi and Mr. Figueroa answered questions from the Commission.

With no other members of the public wishing to comment, Commissioner McAuliffe closed the public comment period. Discussion on the item ensued with Commissioners providing comments for the project.

Motion by: Commissioner Latkovic

Seconded by: Commissioner Blakeley

Following discussion, motion carried to approve Case No. MISC24-0002 as presented with the following conditions:

1. Gold band trim shall be an anodized surface; staff to review and approve material.
2. Shadow boxes shall have covers which are fade resistant.
3. All equipment shall be adequately screened, consistent with Palm Desert Municipal Code Section 25.40.090.

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

6.b CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A DESIGN REVIEW FOR A FAÇADE MODIFICATION TO AN EXISTING COMMERCIAL STOREFRONT FOR SHIRAZ RUG COMPANY LOCATED AT 74-220 HIGHWAY 111

Principal Planner, Carlos Flores, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to Commission inquiries.

Commissioner Latkovic opened the public comment. With no members of the public wishing to comment, Commissioner Latkovic closed the public comment period. Discussion on the item ensued with Commissioners providing comments for the project.

Motion by: Commissioner Colvard

Seconded by: Commissioner Blakeley

Following discussion, motion carried to approve Case No. MISC24-0012 as presented.

RECUSED (1): Commissioner McAuliffe

Motion Carried (4 to 0)

7. REPORTS & REMARKS

7.a ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSIONERS

In response to Commissioner comments regarding the policy for remote participation Recording Secretary Gonzalez advised when a commissioner requests to participate remotely and the reason does not fall under certain circumstances, adherence to Brown Act requirements for teleconferencing are mandatory. Recording Secretary Gonzalez stated the memo from City Clerk outlining the requirements would be resent to Commissioners to remind them of the protocols for remote participation.

7.b CITY STAFF

Principal Planner Melloni provided the following updates.

- As requested by the Commission, staff followed up on the carports installed for the Millennium Apartments project. As observed by commissioners, the carports are taller and increased in size from the originally approved design. The carports were revised to be solar carports, resulting in the need to increase the size, number of carports, and increase the height to comply with fire clearance requirements. These revisions were approved by staff under the Solar Rights Act. Additional information on the Solar Rights Act was provided.
- Clarion and Associates was awarded the contact for consultation services for the unified development code update which will comprehensively update the Zoning, Grading, and Subdivision ordinances as well as any other codes that are applicable to development. Kick-off meetings are scheduled for September 10, 2024, and September 12, 2024. A study session will be held with the City Council on September 26, 2024. An invite to participate in a survey to provide input will be emailed to ARC commissioners.
- Staff is working on an amendment to the University Neighborhood Specific Plan (UNSP) primarily for the land use planning for the remaining 170 acres at the corner of Portola Avenue and Frank Sinatra. Planning staff will conduct a community engagement meeting for September 19, 2024, to discuss the planning portion of the UNSP. A follow up meeting will be conducted by the Public Works department which will focus on the 40-acre regional park and other open spaces within the UNSP.

Principal Planner Flores reported at the last Planning Commission meeting Wildest Restaurant Outdoor Patio Expansion project was approved. The Planning

Commission also approved a recommendation of approval to the City Council for the Upper Way West project; it will go to City Council for approval in October.

7.c ATTENDANCE REPORT

The attendance report was provided with the agenda materials. The Commission took no action on this matter.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Architectural Review Commission adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Gonzalez, Executive Administrative Assistant
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Carlos Flores, Principal Planner
Secretary

APPROVED BY ARC: __/__/2024