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CITY of ESCONDIDO

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

October 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers: 201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

WELCOME TO YOUR COMMISSION MEETING

We welcome your interest and involvement in the legislative process of Escondido. This agenda includes information about topics coming before the Commission.

CHAIR

Barry Speer

VICE CHAIR

Dustin Steeve

COMMISSIONERS

Marc Correll
Corey Gustafson
Jeff Jester
Carrie Mecaro
Stan Weiler

MINUTES CLERK

Awnie Orozco

HOW TO WATCH

The City of Escondido provides one way to watch the Planning Commission meeting:

In Person

201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

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CITY of ESCONDIDO

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE: Chair Speer.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Barry Speer, Chair; Dustin Steeve, Vice-Chair; Stan Weiler, Commissioner; Corey Gustafson, Commissioner; Carrie Mecaro, Commissioner.

Commissioners Absent: Marc Correll, Commissioner; Jeff Jester, Commissioner.

City Staff Present: Garrett Smith, City Planner; Leia Cabrera, Engineering Manager; Dare DeLano, City Attorney; Sally Schifman, Principal Planner; Pricila Roldan, Senior Planner; Awnie Orozco, Minutes Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **October 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
   Motion to Approve.
   Motion: Stan Weiler, Commissioner; Second: Carrie Mecaro, Commissioner.
   Motion carried 3-0-2 to approve the meeting minutes.
   Ayes: Speer, Weiler, Mecaro.
   Nays: None.
   Abstain: Steeve, Gustafson.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. **PL23-0375 – El Caballo Park Master Plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

   REQUEST: For the Planning Commission to adopt Resolution No. 2026-174 recommending that the City Council adopt the El Caballo Park Master Plan, the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

   APPLICANT: City of Escondido.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

CITY COUNCIL HEARING REQUIRED: Yes.

CEQA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed the long-standing community use of El Norte Park, the cultural and recreational value of the equestrian facilities, and the benefits of formalizing the site's future through the proposed Master Plan. Discussion included the park's history, community partnerships, maintenance responsibilities, funding opportunities, and potential cost-recovery mechanisms to support future operations and improvements. Commissioners also discussed the flexibility of the Master Plan to accommodate future amendments and additional revenue-generating uses if deemed appropriate by the City. Commissioners further discussed the proposed Master Plan's role in guiding future improvements, preserving existing recreational and cultural uses, and providing flexibility for future operational and funding considerations.

COMMISSION ACTION:
Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-174 and recommend that the City Council consider incorporating cost-recovery mechanisms into the implementation of the Master Plan.
Motion: Barry Speer, Chair; Second: Dustin Steeve, Vice-Chair.
Motion carried 5-0 to approve.
Ayes: Speer, Gustafson, Mecaro.
Nays: Weiler.
Abstain: Steeve.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS:

None.

CITY PLANNER'S REPORT:

Garrett Smith, City Planner, provided an update on anticipated upcoming agenda items, including a residential condominium project, discussion of city vacancy rates, and a review of Planning Commission bylaws. He also noted

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that several policy-related items may be carried into early 2027 as the Commission works through its remaining meetings of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Speer adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Signed by:
Garrett Smith
FCBC937CC1CB4BC...

Garrett Smith, Secretary to the Escondido Planning Commission

Signed by:
Awnie Orozco
E5711D920CB2480...

Awnie Orozco, Minutes Clerk