



CITY of ESCONDIDO

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

September 22, 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

Angel Estrada

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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MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE: Vice-Chair Steeve.

ROLL CALL:

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

Commissioners Absent: Barry Speer, Chair; Marc Correll, Commissioner.

City Staff Present: Garrett Smith, City Planner; Owen Tunnell, Assistant City Engineer; Dare DeLano, Interim City Attorney; Alex Rangel, Associate Planner; Angel Estrada, Minutes Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **September 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to Approve.

Motion: Carrie Mecaro, Commissioner; Second: Jeff Jester, Commissioner.

Motion carried 4-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes.

Ayes: Steeve, Weiler, Gustafson, Mecaro.

Nays: None.

Abstain: Jester.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Ruth Weber, Escondido resident, submitted her position in opposition to the proposed Rinks Facility at Kit Carson Park and provided references to the Specific Plan, project site location, and conceptual site plan for the Commission.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ruth Weber, Escondido resident, spoke in opposition of the proposed Rinks Facility at Kit Carson Park.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. **Major CUP Modification & Design Review Permit – Expansion of Existing Religious Facility**

REQUEST: Approval of a Major Conditional Use Permit modification to modify hours of operation and the services provided on site and Major Design Review for an existing religious facility which includes an approximately 4,520 square foot expansion to the existing facility, to include additional assembly area, administrative office area, sleeping quarters, expansion of an existing colonnade, and accessory property



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enhancements. The Project site has a General Plan land use designation of Estate II (E2), and is zoned Residential Estates (RE-20).

APPLICANT: Sikh Society of San Diego.

CEQA RECOMMENDATION: Categorical Exemption – CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the Project, subject to the Conditions of Approval.

CITY COUNCIL HEARING REQUIRED: No.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners asked clarifying questions of staff and the applicant regarding the project. No further discussion occurred prior to the motion.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-09

Motion: Carrie Mecaro, Commissioner; Second: Corey Gustafson, Commissioner.

Motion carried 5-0 to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Steeve, Weiler, Gustafson, Jester, Mecaro.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

3. Development Services Department Streamlining Effort

REQUEST: Receive staff's presentation to the Planning Commission regarding ongoing Development Services Department process improvement initiatives, including efforts to streamline permitting and development review processes, enhance customer service, improve technology and online services, and expand public outreach and engagement

APPLICANT: City of Escondido Development Services Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None.

CITY COUNCIL HEARING REQUIRED: No.



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CEQA RECOMMENDATION: Not a "Project" under CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners commended the Development Services Department's process improvement efforts and discussed customer service, staff responsiveness, online permitting tools, and ongoing organizational improvements. Commissioners also provided feedback regarding performance metrics, stakeholder outreach, and the potential use of emerging technologies to further enhance customer service and operational efficiency.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS:

Vice-Chair Steeve recognized Owen Tunnell for nearly 39 years of service to the City and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

CITY PLANNER'S REPORT:

Garrett Smith, City Planner, reported that upcoming Planning Commission agenda items are expected to focus primarily on policy-related matters currently under development, with several items anticipated to be presented to the Commission and forwarded to the City Council in the coming months.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Steeve adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Signed by:

Garrett Smith

Garrett Smith, Secretary to the Escondido
Planning Commission

Signed by:

Angel Estrada

Angel Estrada, Minutes Clerk