



# CITY of ESCONDIDO

## PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

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**April 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers: 201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025**

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### **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**

Katharine Barba

#### **VICE CHAIR**

Rick Paul

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

David Barber

Dao Doan

Carrie Mecaro

Barry Speer

Stan Weiler

#### **MINUTES CLERK**

Kimberlianne Miller

#### **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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TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023

### MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE:** Katharine Barba

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Katharine Barba, Chair; Rick Paul, Vice-Chair; David Barber, Commissioner; Carrie Mecaro, Commissioner; Barry Speer, Commissioner; and Stan Weiler, Commissioner

**Commissioners Absent:** Dao Doan, Commissioner

**City Staff Present:** Andrew Firestine, Director of Development Services; Dare DeLano, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Joanna Axelrod, Deputy City Manager; Danielle Lopez, Assistant Director of Community Services; Owen Tunnel, Assistant City Engineer; Veronica Morones, Principal Planner; and Kimberlianne Miller, Minutes Clerk

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 28, 2023**

Motion carried (5-0) to approve minutes with a correction to the motion of agenda item number one. The second motion was made by Commissioner Barber and not Commissioner Weiler.

Ayes: Paul, Barber, Mecaro, Speer, Weiler

Abstained: Barba

Absent: Doan

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**1. PL23-0116: GRAPE DAY PARK MASTER PLAN**

REQUEST: The Grape Day Park Master Plan outlines the City's vision for Grape Day Park and serves as the regulatory framework for future park improvements. The Plan was originally developed in 2015, and has been updated to reflect the community's needs based on information provided as part of the City's outreach efforts. The new Master Plan identifies a number of recommended improvements to the Park, and includes other improvements that have been installed since the prior plan was approved. Proposed features identified on the plan include improved gateway entrances, enhanced access to Maple Street Plaza, embellished decorative fencing, a tot-lot, picnic areas, sports courts, an aquatics facility, a new restroom building, lighting, new walkways, pads for food trucks, and stage areas by the train depot and



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Great Green. Additional improvements shown in the Plan which have already been installed include a class 1 bike lane, an agricultural-themed playground, a dry stream bed with bridges, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge, a pedestrian crossing with traffic signal, and decorative wrought iron fencing around the History Center complex.

**PROPERTY SIZE AND LOCATION:** The project site (Grape Day Park) is approximately 30.4 acres in size and is located at 321 N. Broadway and 131 Woodward Avenue.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines sections 15301, 15302, and 15303.

**APPLICANT:** City of Escondido

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

### COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed the Grape Day Park Master Plan and expressed concerns with the splash pad, location of the sports court, the connection between Maple Street and Grape Day Park, and the Escondido Creek's historical importance.

### COMMISSION ACTION:

Motion by Commissioner Speer and seconded by Commissioner Barber, to approve with a deferment of the location of the sports court. After further discussion amongst the Commission, Commissioner Speer and Commissioner Barber withdrew their motions.

Motion by Commissioner Speer and seconded by Commissioner Weiler, to revise the previous motion and approve the plan with three recommendations for Council. The first recommendation is to defer the location of the sports court. The second recommendation is to include the coordination of the future development of a connection between Maple Plaza and Grape Day Park. The third recommendation is to have a placeholder for future enhancements to the Escondido Creek corridor and emphasize its natural area.

Motion carried (5-1) to approve.

Ayes: Barba, Barber, Mecaro, Speer, and Weiler

Noes: Paul

Absent: Doan

**PROJECTED COUNCIL HEARING DATE:** May 17, 2023

### CURRENT BUSINESS:

#### **2. GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (PL23-0027)**



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**REQUEST:** Receive and file the General Plan Annual Progress Report for the 2022 calendar year, including the Housing Element Annual Progress Report and Climate Action Annual Monitoring Report.

**PROPERTY SIZE AND LOCATION:** CityWide

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15378(b)(5).

**APPLICANT:** City of Escondido

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Receive and File

**COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**COUNCIL HEARING DATE:** Presented on March 22, 2023

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Andrew Firestine, Director of Development Services noted that there was a memo provided to the Commission within the packet outlining future agenda items. He also noted that there will be at least three agenda items presented to the Commission and By-laws and election of officers will be agendaized for the next scheduled Planning Commission meeting on April 25, 2023.

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

### **PLANNING COMMISSIONERS**

Vice-Chair Paul mentioned that there is an opening for an Escondido member on the Community Advisory Commission Committee for Clean Energy Alliance. Commissioner Weiler announced that the Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Transportation Exposition on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the mall. Commissioner Mecaro invited the Commission and City staff to old Escondido's Historic Mother's Day tour on May 13, 2023.

### **CITY PLANNER'S REPORT:**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Barba adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.




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Adam Finestone, Secretary to the Escondido  
Planning Commission

  
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Kimberlianne Miller, Minutes Clerk