



Minutes of the Development Review Commission Study Session January 22, 2019

Minutes of the Study Session of the Development Review Commission, of the City of Tempe, which was held in Council Chambers,
31 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona

Present:

Chair David Lyon
Vice Chair Michael DiDomenico
Commissioner Don Cassano
Commissioner Thomas Brown
Commissioner Scott Sumners
Commissioner Philip Amorosi
Commissioner Andrew Johnson
Alt Commissioner Michelle Schwartz

City Staff Present:

Ryan Levesque, Deputy Director, Community Development
Suparna Dasgupta, Principal Planner
Obenia Kingsby II, Planner II
Christopher Ray, Administrative Assistant I

Absent:

Alt Commissioner Barbara Lloyd
Alt Commissioner Angela Thornton

Chair Lyon began the Study Session at 5:32 p.m.

Review of January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda

Development Review Commission – Study Session and Regular Meeting – December 11, 2018

Review of Development Review Commission Agenda

Chair David Lyon asked staff if there has been any recent news regarding the two projects on the agenda. Ms. Suparna Dasgupta, Principal Planner, wanted to answer Commissioner Amorosi's question regarding landscaping and wall design for Baseline Retail. She stated that this is a subdivision plat. The design issues would be addressed with a minor Development Plan Review and the applicant is aware of the requirement. Stan Gray, Arizona Grand, assisted in answering Commissions questions regarding the existing walls and landscaping. The Commission discussed the Bill Luke Tempe project, and asked staff whether there was input from neighbors. Mr. Obenia Kingsby, Planner II, stated he had received no public input on the project.

Project Update by Staff (City Council Action Items)

Mr. Levesque gave a brief overview of City Council Action Items, stating that donor Network and The Level both receive approval. There were follow up discussions regarding the Skinner Residence case from January 8, 2019 agenda. Vice Chair Michael DiDomenico asked whether the City has received an appeal regarding prior project Skinner Residence.

Ms. Dasgupta explained that we received an appeal at 4:50 PM. Vice Chair DiDomenico inquired about the demolition of the Skinner Residence House. Mr. Levesque explained the Skinners had reached out to Historic Preservation before they submitted their application, so they had in fact waited 30 days to demolish. Ms. Dasgupta further explained processes behind Historic Preservation ordinance. Commissioner Amorosi asked why we use a variance sometimes and a use permit standard other times. Mr. Levesque explained the difference and origin of both processes. The Commission reviewed the packets received from staff regarding setbacks and codes. Mr. Chad Weaver, Director, stated he apologized for not being at the last DRC meeting, yet he did not believe his presence would have made a difference in the end product. The Commission and staff discussed the previous DRC meeting and talked about potential process improvements that could have helped the situation. Commissioner Sumners suggested a clarification on the requirements of a Neighborhood Meeting. Ms. Dasgupta stated that staff is working to update the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) to include the policy memo regarding neighborhood meetings in Maple Ash area.

The Study Session adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Prepared by: Christopher Ray



Reviewed by: Suparna Dasgupta
Suparna Dasgupta, Principal Planner