The Irwindale PLANNING COMMISSION met in regular session at the above time and place.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INVOCATION
Father God, I want to thank you for this New Year. We ask for continuous guidance and wisdom. Protect our City, Staff, the Police Department, and protect our State and our Nation. We pray this, amen.

CHAIR GOMEZ
Roll call.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Commissioners; Robert E. Hartman; David Fuentes; Richard Chico; Vice Chair Enoch Burrola; Chair Suzanne Gomez

Also present: Adrian Guerra, City Attorney; Marilyn Simpson, Community Development Director; Jamie Traxler, Assistant City Attorney; Brandi Jones, Senior Planner; Lisa Chou, Associate Planner; Martin Romero, Planning Technician; Jesus Hernandez, Administrative Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA
Do we have any announcements, for today?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SIMPSON
No announcements.

REORGANIZATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA
So then we are going to go ahead and do the Reorganization of the Planning Commission. I guess you guys can run that as far as the nominations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SIMPSON
Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA
Okay.
Thank you Vice-Chair and Commission. This is the time for the Reorganization of Planning Commission and Jesus Hernandez will be giving the report.

At this time it is appropriate to reorganize the Planning Commission, including the selection of a Chair and Vice Chair. Any Commissioner may nominate another Commissioner or themselves and no second to the nomination is required. I will start off with opening the nominations for the office of Chair. After receiving all the nominations I will close the nominations and conduct the election of Chair by roll call vote, in the order nominated. Do we have any nominations for the office of Chair?

I’d like to nominate Suzanne Gomez for Chair.

Commissioner Gomez, do you accept or decline?

I accept.

Do we have any other nominations?

Motion to close the nominations.

I will now be conducting roll call for the nomination of Chair, for Commissioner Gomez. Commissioner Chico.

Yes.

Commissioner Fuentes.

Yes.

Commissioner Gomez
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COMMISSIONER GOMEZ  
Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  
Commissioner Hartman.

COMMISSIONER HARTMAN  
Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  
Vice-Chair Burrola.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA  
Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  
We will now welcome our new Chair, Chair Gomez to open the nominations for Vice Chair. Again, any Commissioner may nominate another Commissioner or themselves and no second to the nomination is required. After receiving all the nominations, I will close the nominations and conduct the election of Vice Chair by roll call vote, in the order nominated. Do we have any nominations for Vice-Chair?

CHAIR GOMEZ  
Yes, I'd like to nominate Commissioner Burrola.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  
Commissioner Burrola, do you accept or decline?

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA  
I accept.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  
Do we have any more nominations? Okay, I will now be conducting roll call for the nomination of Vice-Chair for Commissioner Burrola. Commissioner Chico.

COMMISSIONER CHICO  
Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  
Commissioner Fuentes.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES  
Yes.
COMMISSIONER GOMEZ

Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Commissioner Hartman.

COMMISSIONER HARTMAN

Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Vice-Chair Burrola.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA

Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Thank you, we welcome our Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA

We will do a five-minute intermission and pick up with Spontaneous Communications.

RECESS

Vice-Chair Burrola recessed the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

RECONVENCED

Chair Gomez reconvened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

We are going to start with another Roll Call, with the new reorganization. Commissioner Hartman.

COMMISSIONER HARTMAN

Here.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Commissioner Fuentes.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES

Here.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Commissioner Chico.
COMMISSIONER CHICO

Here.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Vice-Chair Burrola.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA

Here.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Chair Gomez

CHAIR GOMEZ

Here.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Thank you.

CHAIR GOMEZ

Now we are going to open up the meeting for Spontaneous Communications.

SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

CHAIR GOMEZ

If we have any in-person attendees, they can come forth and speak. Since it seems like we do not, we will move on to Tier Two, which is the teleconference attendees. Do we have any teleconference attendees?

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

We do. We have...

CHAIR GOMEZ

We do have any raised hands?

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Yes, correct.

CHAIR GOMEZ

Okay, let's proceed.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

I am going to go ahead and unmute Dena.
DENA ZEPEDA  Thank you Chair, first of all I’d like to congratulate Commissioner Fuentes. I am really happy to see that we are having you up there for all your knowledge, and everything you had in the past, congratulations. Congratulations to Chair, Ms. Gomez, I am glad to see you up there, being that you are very knowledgeable about a lot and to benefit our City. I really would like to thank and congratulate Burrola; you have done a lot for our community. You have great knowledge. Your knowledge saved us from a lot and we really appreciate that. We want you to know, the residents, we want you to know that what you’ve done for us with the Vincente project, we really appreciate that. Thank you. To the other Commissioners, thank you so very much, Hartman and Chico. I hope we have a good year this year, there’s a lot to look forward to and I think we have a great team right now. I want to thank all of you for accepting all your duties and everything, to benefit our residents. I do have a question for you guys, for the one doing this. We like to see you guys, on the webinar we have the Spontaneous Communications Label across and we can’t see you guys up in the corner. We would like to see if you could switch those screens so we can be able to see as others get appointed and stuff. We want to be able to see it and we can’t see that. Another thing is congratulations to our new clerk. Thank you and if you could put your speaker up because you are going in and out. Thank you, you guys have a good day.

CHAIR GOMEZ  Thank you Ms. Zepeda, we will look into that. Any other hands raised?

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  We do not.

CHAIR GOMEZ  Thank you so much for that. We will go into, is there anyone for Tier 3 to address? No? And then Tier 4 the teleconference attendees, nothing to address on that. So we will move forward, and we will move forward to the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

CHAIR GOMEZ  On the Consent Calendar there is a recommendation to approve some minutes, the Adjourned Meeting held August 09, 2021. I believe that we have some guidance on that meeting from our attorney. Is that correct?
CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: Yes, my understanding is that former Chair Tapia, was a participant in some of the hearings in which we only had three Commissioners present for that hearing. Therefore, the other two Commissioners that did not participate, were outside of the chambers and did not have a role in those items. Usually as many of you know, when Council Members or Commissioners have missed a meeting the traditional process is that they recuse themselves, from voting on the Minutes since they were not there. This is a unique scenario where that Commissioner is not coming back, and we would have two Commissioners who participated in that specific hearing being able to vote, and that is less than a quorum. What I have usually recommended, is that one of the other Commissioners who did not participate go back and listen to the audio or review the video of the meeting, and ensure that the Minutes reflect accurately what occurred at that meeting. You do not have to participate to do that but that would at least allow us to adopt the Minutes. We can do it one of three ways.

CHAIR GOMEZ: I have a couple of comments just before we make that decision. On that August 9th Meeting, there were two Commissioners that had to recuse themselves based on the proximity of the project. I believe that the new commissioner would also be in the circumstances, where his residence is in proximity to the property. Even in that, because we need a quorum one of us would have to listen to the minutes to get them approved. I would like to make a recommendation on that, that is since Commissioner Chico and I were present for the hearing and the discussion, I wonder instead of drawing straws if we could have a commissioner volunteer and listen to it, so they can get caught up on what happen in those proceedings. Would that be okay?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: Yes.

CHAIR GOMEZ: Commissioner Fuentes.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES: I have a question. Since the Commission is just approving Minutes, all Minutes are, are the written documents from the transcript verbatim on what when on in the meeting. Why would that preclude anybody from voting on that? This is what it is. This happen and the other Commissioners were outside listening. What would preclude them from voting on this?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: Nothing, if they listen to the meeting.
CHAIR GOMEZ: My concern with that is, when we came before to approve these Minutes we found some discrepancies that we needed to correct. In abundance of caution because of the relevancy of this project, I would like to take the recommendation of the City Attorney and have somebody volunteer to review them and make sure the items were changed as previously noted, and bring it back and vote on it and have it approved. We can draw straws or somebody can volunteer.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES: I would volunteer but I was not here to see if the changes have been made in this document. I've read this document but that is all I got is a document that is before me. I wasn't present at the meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: Right and so what Staff can do is provide access to the video or audio of the meeting, and you can just listen to it and ensure the Minutes reflect accurately of what occurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ: Just to clarify, the changes were not made. We went back and listened to the recording and what was said was written on the Minutes.

CHAIR GOMEZ: Okay. Great. Excellent. I appreciate that thank you for the input. I think that whoever is reviewing it, any other Commissioner here other than the two that voted, we can verify just to be sure. As we know, the Minutes are a legal document once they are approved, and that is a strong ramification especially on this particular project.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: Can I make a comment?

CHAIR GOMEZ: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: I think that it would be good for you to actually go over the audio. Just so you get caught up to where we are at now, with the whole situation at the Manning Pit and Vincent.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SIMPSON: Can you please turn your mic on?

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: Oh you couldn't hear? I am sorry. I kind of agree with the Chair. If you wish to be the one to review it, and get caught up to where we are at now.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES: If that is the recommendation of this Commission, I am willing to oblige.
COMMISSIONER CHICO  I was gonna say I personally appreciate it. If no other reason you were totally independent. You weren’t even a Commissioner. It keeps everything squeaky clean.

CHAIR GOMEZ  Do we need a motion or we just going to have somebody who is going to volunteer.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  I think if we have someone who is going to volunteer, we can just move the item to the next meeting.

CHAIR GOMEZ  Do we have any volunteers on the Commission that would listen and review the Minutes and the motion. Do we have anybody who is willing to volunteer to review the audio, and also in conjunction with review the minutes for this meeting so we can come back and approve them.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES  I have no problem. I have a question though.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  Sure.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES  I notice in the meetings that there were several Union representatives that came up and spoke on behalf of project. I was a union member affiliated with one of those Unions for twenty-eight years. Would I have a conflict of interest there?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  I do not see a conflict there.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES  Okay, I am okay then.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  But thank you for asking.

CHAIR GOMEZ  You are willing to volunteer then?

COMMISSIONER FUENTES  Sure.

CHAIR GOMEZ  Okay.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES  If that is the wishes of this Commission.

CHAIR GOMEZ  Thank you.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  So Chair, we will bring the items back at the next meeting.
CHAIR GOMEZ  Okay, does that also pertain to the Regular Meeting held August 18th and September 15th. Are we approving those or do those also pertain to similar issue that we need to...

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  I believe that includes a similar issue.

CHAIR GOMEZ  So all three need to be...

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  Give me one second. The one in August everyone was here, it was regarding a presentation of Conflict of Interest. Just let me double check. That would be August 18th.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  Yeah, for the August 18th there were no action items other than...

CHAIR GOMEZ  So we can go ahead and pass those today. And then also the Regular Meeting of September 15th, were there any items that were of issue?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  Let me see.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  I don't believe so, but give me one second.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  We had the Vincent Project.

CHAIR GOMEZ  On that item?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  On the 15th.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ  Oh yes we did on the Consent Calendar.

CHAIR GOMEZ  So we are going to go over, Number 1 the Meeting of August 9th and Number 3 the Meeting of September 15th for review by Commissioner Fuentes. We will bring those back on the next Consent Calendar. Can I have a motion to approve the consent for the Regular Meeting held August 18th.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA  For the 18th you said?

CHAIR GOMEZ  August 18th.
VICE-CHAIR BURROLA
August 18th. motion to approve.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ
Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER CHICO
Second.

CHAIR GOMEZ
Roll Call please.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA
Is it August 18th?

CHAIR GOMEZ
It says August 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting, there was no conflict as to that discussion, correct?

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ
Correct.

CHAIR GOMEZ
There was a motion and a second by Commissioner Chico, so can we do Roll Call?

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ
Yes. Commissioner Chico.

COMMISSIONER CHICO
Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ
Commissioner Fuentes.

COMMISSIONER FUENTES
Abstain.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ
Commissioner Hartman.

COMMISSIONER HARTMAN
Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ
Vice-Chair Burrola.
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VICE-CHAIR BURROLA

Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Chair Gomez

CHAIR GOMEZ

Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Thank you.

CHAIR GOMEZ

Do we need a motion to put over the other motion? No? We will just bring it back?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA

We will just bring it back.

CHAIR GOMEZ

So we move to the next issue, which would be New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

CHAIR GOMEZ

Do we have any New Business?

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

We do not.

CHAIR GOMEZ

So now we move into Public Hearings.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CHAIR GOMEZ

Do we have any Public Hearings?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SIMPSON

Thank you Chair and Commission, we do not have any Public Hearings tonight.

CHAIR GOMEZ

Then we will move on to the next item.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

CHAIR GOMEZ

Any presentations?
We do not have any presentations.

Thank you.

And do we have any Commissioner Comments or Request this evening?

I have a comment, forgive me when you have call Commissioner Chico Fuentes I might answer. I’ve gone by that name, it is not my name, but I’ve gone by that name as a nickname.

I had it first.

When you first motion, I almost..

While we are at it, I would like to officially welcome Commissioner Fuentes to our group here.

Welcome.

Yes, welcome Mr. Fuentes. Any other comments by any other Commissioners or requests?

I had a couple of comments. Two items are things that need to be taken care off. On the Irwindale Avenue, bridge over at the Metro Station under the bridge there is full of graffiti and it is very, very visible. It is on the bottom of the bridge right above the bicycle lockers. I thought maybe it would get taken care of, but it has been there for about three weeks. I’d like to see that get cleaned up by somebody. I don’t know if it is Metro or us. The other item is, on the meandering sidewalk at the south end of this Irwindale business complex, actually at the south end of Louis Vuitton, there is the meandering sidewalk lights; quite a few of them are burned out. Two of them that I saw, had holes in the glass planes and birds had actually made a nest inside. I think that needs to be taken care of by the maintenance department over there. That is all I have.

Any other Commissioners have a comments or requests? Did you have a comment or request at this time?
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VICE-CHAIR BURROLA
I have a comment. Happy New Year for one. I just hope this year could be a good year, where we work together to get things done for the City. There is probably going to be a lot of projects coming through and we have a good staff. I just want to say that working together we can get things done. Just keep that in mind. We work as a team. As we work as a team we can get things done for the residents and for the City of Irwindale. And Merry Christmas too. We haven’t seen each other since then so Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and congratulations to the new Chair. I am very sure she is gonna do a very, very good job. Thank you.

CHAIR GOMEZ
Thank you, any other comments.

COMMISSIONER CHICO
Yes, Chair Gomez.

CHAIR GOMEZ
Sure.

COMMISSIONER CHICO
I’d like to request at this time that when we adjourn, we adjourn in the memory of Ben Aguayo, who passed away recently. Mr. Aguayo was, although not a lifelong citizen of Irwindale, he did live most of his life in Irwindale. He was a member of the Planning Commission. He was always involved in civic affairs and he was very much of a gentlemen. So if you would, please.

CHAIR GOMEZ
Thank you. I just like to take this opportunity to thank you for putting me in this position. I have worked previously with many members on this Commission in capacity of Planning Commission previously and also in the City Council. I do believe that our heart and integrity is for the benefit of the City overall. As representatives of the City Council and of residents, I am sure that we will do our best to continue to beautify and enhance Irwindale in the vison and the mission that our forefathers had. Also, Ben was my neighbor and he was a great guy. So we will certainly do that. Any comments from Legal Counsel as we move to complete the Agenda.

LEGAL COUNSEL
COMMENTS

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA
Madame Chair, actually I do. Going back to the Minutes, it appears that Commissioner Burrola you were absent at that meeting. I just want to make sure you were comfortable moving forward with the Minutes.

CHAIR GOMEZ
Was he teleconference? He did a teleconference.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA
That was a training session.
VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: Okay, I was unaware of that. I had a sickness, I guess at that time now that I am recalling. One of the meetings I had was at home. The second meeting after that, the next month after, was that the meeting August 18th?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: Yeah this one...

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: That was after the one where we voted on the Vincent property?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: I believe so.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: Okay. So how would that work? Should we abstain from those?

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: Yes, so what I would suggest is that maybe we do a motion to reconsider since you made the motion.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: Let's do that.

CHAIR GOMEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA: I abstain from...

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: The procedure would be; do a motion to reconsider, do a second, we will have a vote on that, basically take that vote off the table, and then somebody else will make the motion to adopt those Minutes.

CHAIR GOMEZ: Okay, so we are going to review and have a motion to reconsider for the Minutes of...

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA: August 18th.

CHAIR GOMEZ: August 18th. So I need a motion to reconsider.

COMMISSIONER CHICO: I motion.

COMMISSIONER HARTMAN: Second.

CHAIR GOMEZ: We will take Roll Call and then vote for those Minutes.
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

COMMISSIONER CHICO

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

COMMISSIONER FUENTES

Abstain.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

COMMISSIONER HARTMAN

Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

VICE-CHAIR BURROLA

Abstain.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

CHAIR GOMEZ

Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

So that was a motion to reconsider. Now we will do a motion to approve the Minutes.

COMMISSIONER CHICO

Motion to approve the Minutes.

CHAIR GOMEZ

Second.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ

Commissioner Chico.

COMMISSIONER CHICO

Yes.
Commissioner Fuentes.

Abstain.

Commissioner Hartman.

Yes.

Vice-Chair Burrola.

Abstain.

Chair Gomez

Yes.

Thank you.

Anything else from our Legal Counsel at this time?

No, I think I've said enough tonight.

Okay, thank you.

Chair?

Yes?

I've got I guess, one...

Comment?
Yes, comment/request. There was several items that were brought before us, for Staff to look into. I would like a report back, where we are at with that. It would be thirty days or so, hopefully the graffiti is cleaned up and also those lights are taken care of. Are those Edison lights or are they parking lights?

They belong to the...

The parking of?

Not parking lot, they are along the sidewalk at the south end of the property.

Okay.

Right by the wash.

Okay, so if we can get a report back of where we are at, instead of just letting it lay idle. If they can report back to us and let us know if Staff or the City, if we have taken care of it or where we are at in an update.

Absolutely, that can be incorporated in the Community Development Director Report monthly, and so right now we are at that.

Thank you Chair and Commissioners, yes we will report. Actually in the Metro, I can give you a report now. Code Enforcement has issued their Courtesy Warning Notice and they have thirty days to respond to it. I will remind them again and I will follow up on it.

Isn't graffiti 48 hours after notification?

Yes but ...

We are dealing with Metro.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SIMPSON

Yes but they have reached out to them. About the lights, thank you, we will follow up with the property management company. First off, congratulations on the new appointments and welcome to our newest Commissioner. Just a couple of things, the City Council had approved, they are continuing the hybrid meetings. That gets approved month to month. For the time being, it is still going to be the hybrid format for that. Next thing, thank you Vice Chair Burrola, you know working as a team. All I want to say is buckle up. We got the Zoning Code that once it gets going it's really going to get going. The same thing with the General Plan. So really exciting. 2022 is going to be a good year. That is it. Thank you.

CHAIR GOMEZ

Thank you. If there is no other comments I would like to adjourn the meeting on behalf of Ben Aguayo. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Suzanne E. Gomez, Planning Commission Chair

Attest:

Jesus Hernandez, Administrative Secretary

Approved as presented at the meeting held April 20, 2022