



**CITY OF DUARTE
PLANNING COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
April 15, 2019**

**Planning Commission
Commissioners**
Paula Watson-Gardner, Chair
Tina Heany, Vice-Chair
George K. Farra
Sara Vasquez
Wallace J. Wolff

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTATION OF ANY ABSENCES

Chair Vasquez called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The following were in attendance:

PRESENT	Vasquez, Wolff, Farra, Watson-Gardner, Heany
ABSENT:	None
STAFF	Hensley, Hernandez
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY:	None

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Heany led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 17, 2018 and February 19, 2019

Farra moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2018. Seconded by Wolff. Motion approved 5-0-0-0. ([PC Minutes - 9-17-18](#))

Watson-Gardner moved to approve the minutes for February 19, 2019. Seconded by Farra. Motion approved 5-0-0-0. ([PC Minutes - 2-19-19](#))

4. COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

Director Hensley opened nominations for Chairperson. Heany nominated Watson-Gardner. Wolff seconded the nomination. Director Hensley called for roll call for additional nomination. Farra nominated Wolff. Farra's nomination died in lack of Second and Wolff declined the nomination.

Ayes: Vasquez, Wolff, Farra, Heany, Watson-Gardner

The vote carried unanimously for Commissioner Watson-Gardner to be Chairperson, 5-0-0-0.

Chairperson Watson-Gardner opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Farra nominated Heany for Vice-Chair. Watson-Gardner seconded the nomination. Chairperson Watson-Gardner called for the roll call vote on Heany:

Ayes: Watson-Gardner, Heany, Farra, Vasquez, Wolff

The vote carried unanimously for Commissioner Heany to be Vice-Chair, 5-0-0-0.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chairperson Watson-Gardner opened Oral Communications for items not on the Agenda. Seeing none Chairperson Watson-Gardner closed the Item.

6. ITEMS FROM DIRECTOR

Hensley provided an update on various local development projects.

He welcomed comments from the Commission.

Wolff inquired about the status of the approved Cell Tower at Royal Oaks Park.

Vasquez inquired about the status of a new business in the previous Fresh & Easy establishment.

Heany commented on time of vacancy for occupancy at previous Fresh & Easy location along with the Frontier Hardware establishment.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Farra expressed his concerns on previously approved projects and expectations when approving new projects. He also commented on some residents' concerns that he encountered in the "Next Door Media" and the need to address their concerns.

Heany addressed Farra's concern about the "Next Door Media" comments.

Chair Watson-Gardner asked Farra to elaborate more on the comment about "Rubber Stamping Projects". Farra provided examples on some approved projects.

Vasquez discussed the power to vote and alternatives vs. rubber stamping a project.

Hensley explained the City's Council policy process of approval and alternatives options given to the Commission when approving a project.

Heany recommended Farra to attend a conference for Commissioners like the one Watson-Gardner and herself attended recently, stating that it was very helpful in understanding the concerns, process and the recommendation of an item.

Hensley addressed the comment discussed from the “Next Door Media” explaining the market and State challenges that mandates the development of residential vs. commercial sites.

Vasquez inquired about the fading conditions of the Street Signs. Hensley informed the Commission that the signs will be replace city wide in the next few weeks.

Vasquez complemented the new set up of the Christmas lighting in front of City Hall and Buena Vista.

Chairperson Watson-Gardner reminded the Commission of the Taste of Duarte event coming up on May 8th.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Monday, May 20, 2019

Chairperson Watson-Garner adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Craig Hensley, Secretary