

**CITY OF LAKEWOOD
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2024
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Lakewood Planning and Environment Commission ("Commission" or "PEC") was called to order by Chairperson Baca at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Samaniego led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Baca
Commissioner Samaniego
Commissioner Stuckey

Excused

Absent: Vice Chairperson Ung
Commissioner Cole

ALSO PRESENT:

Abel Avalos, Director of Community Development
J. Patrick McGuckian, Assistant Director of Community Development
Ivy Tsai, City Attorney
Cindy Kojaku, Administrative Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no objections, Chairperson Baca ordered the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2024, approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Abel made the following announcements:

- Update on Community Development construction
- March is Women's History Month
- Applications for Lakewood Beautiful Program: Deadline is March 21, 2024

Patrick made the following announcement:

- Additional 200 square-foot front parking space has been a success.

Chairperson Baca asked if a house has been abandoned for a few years, would that be part of the help-a-neighbor program and would the City be able to mow the lawn?

Director Avalos stated that Community Development does not oversee the program, and there are criteria to the program. He believes the house must be occupied. Director Avalos requested Chairperson Baca to send him an e-mail, and he will forward it onto the Community & Recreation Department. If the house cannot be taken care of through the program, it might be managed as a Code Enforcement case.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. 2024 BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE, TO AMEND REGULATIONS OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE TO AUTHORIZE BEEKEEPING ON LOTS WITHIN THE R-1, RA, OS AND A ZONING DISTRICTS.

Assistant Director of Community Development, J. Patrick McGuckian, presented the staff report and exhibits which recommended adoption of a proposed PEC resolution that recommends to the City Council adoption of the 2024 Beekeeping Ordinance and approval of the related categorical exemption. The ordinance proposes to amend regulations of the Lakewood Municipal Code to authorize beekeeping in approved beehives, subject to standards for location and operation of such beehives in approved apiaries on lots within the R-1, RA, OS and A Zoning Districts. These documents are on file with the Community Development Department. Notice of Hearing was given pursuant to the Municipal Code and state law. Staff recommended that the Commission hold a public hearing and then following the hearing, move to adopt the proposed Resolution. Assistant Director McGuckian asked if there are any questions of staff?

Chairperson Baca opened the public hearing. No one came forward to testify. Chairperson Baca then closed the public hearing.

Chairperson Baca asked the Commissioners if there were any questions of staff.

Commissioner Stuckey asked who would go out to do the inspection, and Assistant Director McGuckian answered that the Agriculture Inspector would do the inspection.

Director Avalos stated that it is important to note that it will be the Agriculture Inspector's jurisdiction rather than our Code Enforcement's jurisdiction. Our Code Enforcement Officers may be called out if there is a nuisance complaint—swarming bees, but there will not be daily, weekly or monthly monitoring for compliance—they will react to any community complaints.

Chairperson Baca wanted clarification on hive location listed on the Beehive Standards. Assistant Director McGuckian explained further. Director Avalos also explained further and stated that the language will be re-written to be clear.

Chairperson Baca also mentioned 9320. Uses Permitted. Section A. and with the abundance of ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) constructed, when they apply for their

beekeeping license for a single-family dwelling, then in five (5) years they decide to add an ADU, do they have to reapply for their beekeeping license?

Assistant Director McGuckian stated the language in 9320 is not changing.

Commissioner Stuckey stated that if you have a regular backyard and you have been authorized to have bees but now you want to add an ADU, would they have to remove all the bees unless they lived on a large lot where they would have all the setbacks?

Assistant Director McGuckian stated the Ordinance is written to state beehives are to be located behind all residence on the property. If they had the bees closer to the house and then they put in an ADU, then they would have to relocate the bees further back on the lot, if they could. Assistant Director McGuckian further clarified that the LA County Agriculture Commissioner requires an annual license for each beehive. The Planning Approval required is a free over-the-counter planning staff site plan review. Relocation of beehives will require a new site plan, and an approved ADU site plan can include the relocated beehives.

Commissioner Stuckey moved and Chairperson Baca seconded a motion to adopt the proposed resolution that recommends adoption to the City Council of the 2024 Beekeeping Ordinance, and approval of the related categorical exemption.

Chairperson Baca called for the vote and the Administrative Secretary, Cindy Kojaku, called the roll with the following result:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Stuckey, Samaniego & Baca
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: n/a
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: Ung & Cole
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS: n/a

Chairperson Baca announced that the Motion has passed.

REPORTS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

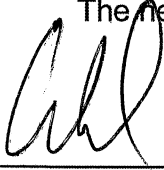
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Patrick stated that on April 9, 2024, it is planned to seat the new Council members as the election should be ratified by that time. On April 23, 2024, is when the 2024 Beekeeping Ordinance will be brought to the City Council. April 23, 2024, is also when all the Planning Commissioners will either be reappointed or replaced, and any changes in the membership of the Commission will then be known. We will have an April Planning

Commission Meeting with our current Commissioners still in office but, in May, we will have new members, and all will need to be sworn in at that time.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 4, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ahl', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary