

CITY OF MESA

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD
STUDY SESSION

Held in the City of Mesa Utilities Community Room
640 North Mesa Drive
October 25, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Carter, Chair
Beth Coons, Vice Chair
Vince DiBella
Lisa Hudson
Brad Arnett
Suzanne Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chell Roberts (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT

John Wesley
Tom Ellsworth
Lesley Davis
Angelica Guevara
Wahid Alam
Gordon Sheffield
Jeff McVay
Margaret Robertson

Others

Chairperson Carter declared a quorum present and the meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

1. Review items on the agenda for the October 26, 2011 regular Planning & Zoning hearing.

The items on the October 26, 2011, agenda were discussed. No formal action was taken.

2. Planning Director's Updates:

The Planning Director briefed the Board regarding cases going through the planning process

3. Other Business:

Staffmember Jeff McVay gave a presentation on the Central Mail Plan

Boardmember Coons was concerned that light rail and the proposed changes not negatively affect the current businesses.

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Chair Carter was concerned that Mesa has talked about downtown for 20 years, but nothing really happens. He thought the City needed to be willing to invest money to bring businesses to the area. Mr. McVay stated the City has had conversations with businesses who are looking to move into the downtown. Chair Carter thought the downtown needed to decide what it wanted to be. A government center; a retail destination; an arts and restaurant center, what is it? Mr. McVay believed it could be all of those things.

Boardmember DiBella thought that one of the things that has always been lacking is citizen support. There have been lots of experimentations, but they haven't worked. He stated there are lots of good things about the downtown, the museums, the cultural center, that people are not aware of. He hoped the light rail would bring in denser residential.

John Wesely stated the plan is not a quick fix, it is putting tools in place to give us the best opportunity to help those transitions to occur. He stated the City is putting in a big investment with the light rail. If we have those tools in place and the economy is working, it can work.

Staffmember Gordon Sheffield gave a presentation on housekeeping changes to the Zoning Code.

Chair Carter wanted the term alteration to be better defined.

Boardmember Coons confirmed that the changes were not things the Board had not discussed previously. Mr. Sheffield stated that many of the changes items that were inadvertently left out of this Code that had been in the previous Code. She clarified some of the changes with Mr. Sheffield.

4. Minutes – submit any corrections, additions, deletions.

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wesley, Secretary
Planning Director

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NOTE: Audiotapes of the Planning & Zoning Study Sessions are available in the Planning Division Office for review.