



City of Sierra Madre

Office of the City Clerk

232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,

Sierra Madre, CA

(626) 355-7135

THE BROWN ACT PROVIDES THE PUBLIC
WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC
COMMENTS AT ANY PUBLIC MEETING.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE
RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING.

Laura Aguilar

Subject: FW: Item Not on the Agenda (In Case I'm Not Present)

From: deb sheridan [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com>
Subject: Item Not on the Agenda (In Case I'm Not Present)

Dear Council Members,

I attended the Community Services meeting last Monday. They were discussing the changes to the filming requirements, throughout Sierra Madre, specifically because of the problems the neighbors around Alverno have had. There were several disturbing issues:

1. Attending were only three Commissioners. The first resident to speak said that several neighbors were unable to attend because of the early hour of 5 pm, which you Council members changed last month from 6:30. Not in attendance were the two Commissioners, involved in Sierra Madre baseball, you said specifically would benefit from this earlier time.
2. A major change was no longer needing signatures from 51% of the neighbors to allow the filming to take place. These neighbors discovered that 100% of the signatures on the latest permission form were forged. Lawyer Giragosian's reason for this change was that "other cities don't need this." **This is not true.** One neighbor had researched this - Monrovia, Arcadia, and Pasadena *all*, require signatures **which they should as filming has a major impact on neighborhoods. Why would the city and its attorney promote a procedure that doesn't give residents a voice?**
3. **Another major issue** was that this was the first item to be discussed on the agenda. The three Commissioners voted to bring this item back to their meeting next month, particularly because two of the Commissioners were absent. This item was closed, and the Commission moved on to the next item on the agenda. The six residents in attendance (including me) left, only to learn later that City Attorney Giragosian informed the Commission that there would be a special meeting to discuss the legal implications. Is this not a violation of the Brown Act? At the very least it seems it is a deliberate ploy to hide what is happening, contrary to the much touted "transparency" by City Hall.

There was more, but I am only limited to three minutes. Thank you.

Deb Sheridan
Valle Vista Drive

Joseph Catalano AIA
Architecture & Preservation
Licensed Architect in California and New York
Member of the American Institute of Architects

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
jcatalano@jwca.net

Date: May 23, 2022

To: Mayor Gene Goss
Mayor Pro Tem Edward Garcia
Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi
Council Member Kelly Kriebs
Council Member Robert Parkhurst

Cc.: City Clerk Laura Aguilar

Re.: Planning Commission Vacancy

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Please consider reappointing me to the Planning Commission to replace Mr. Spears. Mr. Capocchia's reasons for demanding my resignation previously were disingenuous, and I remain highly qualified for the position, and with a good heart for the people and environment of Sierra Madre.

My specific qualifications covering many commission endeavors are, in brief:

Licensed Architect: I am a California Licensed Architect since 1996.

Urban and Regional Planning: I am an Adjunct Professor in the Urban and Regional Planning Department at Cal Poly Pomona.

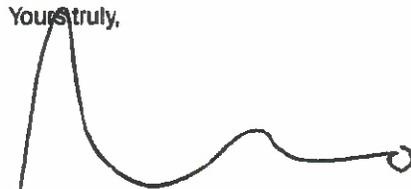
Historic Preservation: I have a specialty as an architect in historic preservation work. In fact, I have been nominated to the College of Fellows in the American Institute of Architects based on my work in historic preservation.

Since the Planning Commission is responsible for our preservation ordinances, I will be a valuable asset given my experience, which includes preservation resource study and evaluation, governmental processes and preservation construction.

There are no changes to my application on file with the City from my last appointment.

With thanks for your consideration, I remain,

Yours truly,



Joseph Catalano AIA

Laura Aguilar

Subject: FW: public comment for May 24 CC meeting

From: Susan Neuhausen [mailto:]

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 3:39 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com>; cityconcil@cityofsierramadre.com; City Council <CityCouncil@cityofsierramadre.com>

Subject: public comment for May 24 CC meeting

To: City Council

From: Susan Neuhausen,

Re: Public comment on non-agenda item and concerns about water and fire

Last time the City Council met, I commented on the amount of water that would be required for the Meadows project and that it was underestimated by at least 50% as it did not account for water used during construction nor that the houses will last at least 100 years rather than 50 years. Two questions I have not seen addressed are the impact on the Sierra Madre water system infrastructure. First, water will be pumped to the Meadows. How will the pumping of the additional water affect the service life of the pumps and who pays for that? Second, in order to get the water up to the Meadows, is there an increase in water pressure? If so, it would seem that pressure on the pipe system may cause leaks in the already antiquated pipes. Who in the city is addressing these questions or already has the answers? I request that the information be provided to the public to allay concerns. We're already losing an unsustainable percentage of available water to leaky pipes. Do we really want to put more pressure on the system?

Second, the fire danger is real. This tract housing development is being built in an area of very high severity fire danger. Current fire code standards for homes means that they still burn, it just takes longer, and the codes are already outdated and insufficient. The Paradise and Bobcat fires and the recent Coastal fire in Laguna Niguel highlight how rapidly small fires can become explosive due to years of severe drought and areas that have not burned in decades. The Coastal fire started out as a small brush fire that quickly turned into an inferno of 20 houses. The fire captain in charge of that blaze noted that the houses that burned had proper brush clearance. I looked up photos of one of the houses online as it was for sale and saw that it was stucco, equipped with internal sprinklers, and had a tile roof. Again, having these fire protections does not prevent a house from burning to the ground, it just takes longer to catch fire. That fire illustrates what could easily happen in the Meadows with Santa Ana winds and fire coming down the canyon just north of the property. A fire at the Meadows project could potentially be worse than the Coastal fire because the houses are packed so close together, just 10' apart, and that doesn't even include the potential of up to 42 ADUs. Given the close proximity of the houses, the potential lack of brush clearance, and the frequency of strong Santa Ana winds in that area, the housing project is a disaster waiting to happen.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.