



**Action Minutes
Design Commission
Tuesday October 27, 2020**

**Special Public Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting**

For a complete and detailed recap of the meeting, please log to:
<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/commissions/audio-video-recordings/>

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
Present: Commissioners Barar, Chiao, Elfarra (left early), Rao, Sales, and Toro
Absent: Commissioners Carpenter and Sepulveda
Staff: Leon White, Kevin Johnson, and Edwar Sissi

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –
Motion to approve minutes for **June 25, 2019**, Commissioners Carpenter and Sepulveda were absent; no opposition, minutes were approved.
Motion to move minutes for **July 28, 2020** and **August 25, 2020** to the next meeting was moved and second by Commissioners Chiao and Rao; Commissioners Loomis and Barar were absent; no opposition, the minutes were moved to next meeting.

3. **INFORMATION ITEM**
 - A. **EAST COLORADO SPECIFIC PLAN: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**
Commission review of draft design and development standards and guidelines as part of the third round community engagement process. Feedback received will inform the preparation of the plans that will be presented later to the Planning Commission and City Council.

(Case Planner: David Sanchez/Anita Cerna)

Public Comments: A. Salimian (Pasadena Heritage)

Commission Comments:
 - Commission requested copy of PowerPoint presentation and to continue discussing at the next meeting in two weeks.

4. **PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION**
 - A. **1200 E. CALIFORNIA BLVD – (COUNCIL DISTRICT 7)**
Demolition of an 8,500 square foot lab building to accommodate a proposed three-story-plus-basement, approximately 80,000-square-foot laboratory (Reznick Sustainability Resource Center).

(Case Planner: Kevin Johnson)
Owner/Applicant: Eugene Kim, CALTECH
Architect: Paul Morel, CannonDesign

Public Comments: None

Commission Comments:

- Continue to study ways to further accentuate the building entries. In particular, the north-south connection appears underdeveloped and the idea of a breezeway connection at that location should be further explored and celebrated in the design.
- In addition, the entrance visible from the street may be hidden by the existing front yard mounding condition and should be studied further to ensure it is fully developed and visible.
- Explore ways to unify the building with the character of surrounding buildings, while retaining the unique expression and sustainability features that relate to the activities that will take place within it.
- Incorporation of movement in the west façade curtain-wall, similar to the north façade treatment, and studying the proportions of these movements to respond to surrounding buildings, could be an effective means of achieving this goal. Provide diagrams and studies to demonstrate how the design responds to the surrounding context.
- Continue to refine the loading/receiving area treatment to ensure it is visually screened from street view and as integrated as possible into the overall design character of the building.
- For Concept Design Review, provide a tree inventory that accurately and clearly indicates the species and size of all trees in the vicinity of the construction site. Private Tree Removal permits may be required if any trees proposed to be removed are protected by the Tree Protection Ordinance.
- Any protected trees proposed to be retained in the vicinity of the construction site will also require a Tree Protection Plan to identify protection measures to be installed prior to and during construction and ensure compliance with the City's tree protection requirements.
- Consider whether the extent of the curtain wall feature should be reduced in scope along the west elevation based on the floor plan and program of the building. Further, consider whether or not this feature should extend over the elevator/stair tower at the northeast corner.
- The design may be stronger if the curtain-wall feature ended at the elevator/stair towers at the northeast and southwest corners.
- Further explore the ideas of sustainability both technically and architecturally and ensure the building design reflects and honors these ideas.
- Consider whether there may be opportunities to selectively puncture through the proposed building envelope.
- Further explore how the proposed organic design relates to the human in terms of entries, hierarchy and organization to ensure that it is welcoming and relates to its surroundings including Wilson Avenue and the adjacent walkway.
- Thought should be given to the idea of this building creating a new major portal of entry to the campus and, as a result, reflecting the mission of the campus and the building.
- The building is about perhaps the most important challenge facing humanity – how we lead sustainable lives and continue as a species on this planet. Consequently, there is an opportunity to make a statement with the building. The EUI should reflect the processes that happen within the institution and this should be brought into the personality of the building. The proposed use of mass timber is one example of this. Explore landscape materials that can sequester carbon and other design features that express the ideas of sustainability.
- Wellness is an important aspect of Caltech campus lifestyle and should be built upon in this project as part of the total idea of sustainability.

5. COMMENTS AND REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff reported that for the next meeting on 11/10 there would be the Final Design review for 101 S. Marengo, a Preliminary Consultation for 758 S. Fair Oaks Ave, and an Information Item for the Panda Inn project at 3452 E. Foothill Blvd.

6. **COMMENTS AND REPORTS FROM COMMISSION**

7. **COMMENTS AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

A. **SELECT COMMISSIONERS TO FILL SUBCOMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Moved to the next meeting.

1. **Urban Forestry Advisory Committee** - (Loomis, Carpenter)
2. **Historic Preservation Commission** - (Elfarra) No Report
3. **Planning Commission** - (Barar) No Report
4. **Transportation Advisory Commission** - (Sales)
5. **Arts & Culture Commission** - (Sepulveda) No Report
6. **Concept Design Review Application Subcommittee** - (Loomis, Toro) No Report
7. **Las Encinas Psychiatric Hospital & Barn Subcommittee** - (Carpenter, Elfarra) No Report
8. **Specific Plan Implementation Process Subcommittee** - (TBD, Rao, Loomis) No Report
9. **100 West Walnut St. Subcommittee (PARSONS)** - (Toro, Chiao, Loomis)
10. **Olivewood (North and South) Subcommittee** - (TBD, Chiao, Loomis) No Report
11. **130-140 N. Fair Oaks Avenue Subcommittee** - (TBD, TBD, Loomis) No Report
12. **3200 East Foothill Boulevard (SpaceBank)** - (Chiao, Loomis) No Report
13. **94 S. Los Robles Avenue (Kaiser)** - (TBD, Loomis, Chiao) No Report
14. **1539 East Howard St. (EF Academy)** – (Toro, Chiao, Loomis) No Report
15. **Design Awards Subcommittee** – (Loomis, TBD) No Report

8. **ADJOURNMENT** – Vice Chair Rao adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.



Leon White, Principal Planner



Michi Takeda, Recording Secretary