

**Design and Review Board
Special Meeting / Hearing
Minutes for July 22, 2024 at 4:15 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees prior to the Call to Order.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Harold Garcia at 4:15 P.M.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present:

Rick Rubio: Present

Roland Medrano: Present

Harold Garcia: Present

Isaac Sandoval: Present

Lorraine Garduño: Absent - excused

A quorum was established..

Others present: Lucas Marquez, Community Development; Charles Ortiz, Community Development; Scott Zunker, Community Development; Lee Einer; Gilbert Ulibarri; Steve Lucero; Shane Flores; Rick Jaramillo; Brooks Potts; Vanessa Maciel; Aaron Villalpando; John Albertson; Annamaria Armijo Glenn; Crystal Western Ford; Rachel Haswell; Jim Haswell, Frank Montano; Michelle Carrillo; Reina Fernandez; Andrew Strasser

Approval of Agenda: Harold Garcia asked if there were any questions on the Agenda, hearing none he asked for a motion.

Motion to approve made by Rick Rubio, Roland Medrano seconded the motion. Motion was approved with all voting in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Harold Garcia asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns with the minutes of the June 17, 2024 minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to approve made by Roland Medrano, Rick Rubio seconded the motion. Motion was approved with all voting in favor.

Public Comments: Harold Garcia asked all who would like to give testimony for or against the subject at hand to stand and be sworn in. Mr. Garcia asked Scott Zunker of the Community Development Department to administer the Sworn Oath.

(Mr. Ambrose Castellano, Jr., Attorney representing the City of Las Vegas arrived at 4:21 P.M.)

Lucas Marquez of the Community Development presented the case to the Design and Review Board regarding Phase II and Phase III for the Acequia Madre. Steve Lucero and Gilbert Ulibarri presented reasons for the request for the Phase II and Phase III project for the Acequia Madre. Mr. Garcia talked about the Historic Preservation and following the guidelines to preserve Historic Structures. The Acequia Madre was built around 1848 and stated that any work needed to comply with the State of New Mexico and City of Las Vegas regulations as well as the State Historic Preservation Division.

Board Member Roland Medrano stated that he is a parciante on the Acequia Madre.

At 4:33 PM Mr. Rick Rubio presented a motion to enter into a Public Hearing regarding Phase II and Phase III of the Acequia Madre. Mr. Isaac Sandoval seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all voting in favor. The motion was approved.

Mr. Harold Garcia asked for those wishing to speak to do so in an orderly manner.

John Albertson talked about the importance of the Acequia as he had an educational display at the E. Romero Fire House Museum.

James Haswell stated his property adjoins the Acequia and he was concerned about tree removal without permission.

Rachel R. Haswell stated she had reached out to the State Historical Preservation – Mr. Bob Estes and that Mr. Estes stated that her entire home and property are on the historic registry. She was concerned about trees being cut without her permission and feared that the entire project would change the eco system.

Michelle Carrillo expressed concern and does not believe the pipeline will fix the problems. She would like to see the Acequia preserved and look for better solutions.

Shane Flores stated that he is a local historian and said the Acequia Madre is the last civic structure in Las Vegas and that the entire Acequia is on the Historic Registry. He believes that it is a living eco system.

Lee Einer stated the ditch is across the street from his home and that the Acequia is an iconic structure in Las Vegas.

Brooks Potts stated that the Acequia is history and it should not be erased. He also stated that he had just found out about the meeting shortly before arriving.

Attorney Castellano stated that the proper notice of the meeting had been given in a timely manner. The notice was published in the Las Vegas Optic newspaper, the local radio stations, posted on the City's website and notice posted on the front doors at both City Hall and the offices of the Community Development Department at the Transit/Train Station.

Richard Jaramillo stated there has always been an issue with trash and such with the Acequia. He stated that he is a parciante on the Acequia and was never told about what was going to be done. He is concerned about what will happen to his land if equipment is brought in to lay the pipeline. He stated there was no communication from the Trustees of the Acequia.

Annamaria Armijo Glenn has been a parciante since 2004 and said this issue is hard on everyone. She is worried about losing her water rights and hopes the community comes together with new solutions.

Reina Fernandez recited information from a study that stated open air acequias are better than piping.

Mr. Garcia asked the applicants to come forward again. He asked if the design for Phase II and Phase III were done. The applicants stated the design for Phase II was done but not Phase III. Mr. Garcia stated that in his opinion the applicants should go back to the drawing board to come up with preventative maintenance, general welfare and safety as well as irrigation.

Lee Einer stated that he had never heard a call for help but he would be willing to bring a shovel and help clean the Acequia.

Shane Flores stated the need to bring ideas on water solutions.

Richard Jaramillo stated the need to ask for help with the ditch.

Annamaria Armijo Glenn stated there might be code violations and worries about street runoff and infrastructure with the Acequia running under buildings.

Rachel R. Haswell asked that if they have been working on this plan for 10 years then there should have been a process for public input.

A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Rick Rubio. Roland Medrano seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Rick Rubio expressed concern about gaining access to properties along the Acequia.

Roland Medrano stated the need for man power to keep the Acequia clean.

Andrew Strasser, engineer for the Acequia Madre project, answered questions from the Design and Review Board with regards to the Historic Structure and the preservation of the Acequia Madre. Mr. Strasser stated they had worked with lots of acequias and with some acequias they recommend piping and some they do not.

Harold Garcia asked the applicants to consider the following the State Historic Preservation guidelines for the Structure.

Mr. Garcia made a motion to recommend denying the application that was submitted. Rick Rubio seconded the motion.

Harold Garcia asked for a roll call vote.

Rick Rubio	Yes
Isaac Sandoval	Yes
Roland Medrano	Abstain
Harold Garcia	Yes

The motion to deny the application passed.

Rick Rubio moved to adjourn the meeting. Roland Medrano seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all voting in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM

Minutes approved on Isaac Sandoval (acting Chair)

9/16/2024

~~Harold Garcia, Chair~~
Isaac Sandoval SE