

Planning Advisory Committee

March 19, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Chair – Rachael Berg

The Department of Real Estate and Records – Ashley Spangenberg, Toni Thompson

Parks and Parkways – Lillian Haggerty

Department of Safety and Permits – Todd Breckman

Department Public Works – Louis Haywood

The City Planning Commission chair called the meeting to order by describing the function of the PAC, to consider the technical merits of projects in order to inform the City Planning Commission's decision.

Item #1 – Minutes from the February 19, 2025, PAC meeting

The minutes from the February 2025, PAC meeting were considered for adoption. The representative from the Department of Safety and Permits made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 19, 2025, PAC meeting. The motion was seconded by the Department of Parks and Parkways and unanimously adopted.

Item number 2 – Consideration of Street Name Change 001/25

A representative from the City Planning Commission explained the requested street name change is a different request from that of SD001/24, which was ultimately withdrawn and resubmitted with a new scope of request. SD001/25 is to change only the end portion of General Meyer Avenue from Sullen Place and Bennett Street to Reverend Taza Green Sr Avenue. The CPC representative explained that this change would create a scenario where General Meyer Avenue has three names: Newton Street, General Meyer Avenue and Reverend Taza Green Sr Avenue. This item will be heard at the April 8, 2025, City Planning Commission hearing.

The comments from Katherine Cargo, Emergency Services, were then read into the record. Her comments state that a partial street name change can lead to delays in emergency response times and issues with USPS/Package delivery services. She expressed concern that this request would result in three names for one street and recommended the honorary street name process instead.

The representatives from all departments present at the PAC meeting agreed that utilizing the honorary street name process would be better than causing potential confusion for emergency services and USPS. The representative from the Department of Real Estate and Records stated finding records of streets where there can be various versions of the same word (Reverend, Rev., Rev, etc.) can cause complications when pulling historical documents or seeking information necessary for subdivisions.

The representative from Parks and Parkways made a motion to deny Street Name Change 001/25 which was seconded by the Department of Safety and Permits. The motion passed unanimously.

Item number 3 – Consideration of Property Acquisition 002/25

The representative from the City Planning Commission explained the property acquisition in question is located at 601 S. Galvez Street and would be used as NOPD's public safety and processing warehouse. The request will be heard at the April 8, 2025, City Planning Commission hearing. The representative also stated the property is located in an MU-2 Zoning District where warehouses and government offices – the two proposed uses for this property – are permitted by-right.

The representatives from the Department of Real Estate and Records provided additional information on the property acquisition. The property contains approximately 12,000 square feet of office space and approximately 65,000 square feet of additional storage, some of which is airconditioned. The NOPD currently uses a building located at 1116 Magnolia Street to store evidence, which is in a state of disrepair and too small for their needs. The acquisition of the building at 601 S. Galvez Street would eventually house the evidence currently stored at 1116 Magnolia Street. Additionally, the property on Galvez has off-street parking, whereas the property on Magnolia does not.

There were some questions from committee members regarding the state of the building located at 1116 Magnolia Street and what would happen to it after the City acquires 601 S. Galvez Street. The answer wasn't immediately clear as improvements are needed before ending the current lease the City has. No other questions or comments were presented.

The Department of Safety and Permits made a motion to approve the request subject to further review from the City Planning Commission and the Department of Real Estate and Records. The motion was seconded by the Department of Public works and unanimously adopted.