



ST. HELENA PLANNING COMMISSION

BY-LAWS

The following rules shall be applicable to the organization of the St. Helena Planning Commission, to the convening or calling of meetings, and to the transaction of business when the Commission has convened and acts or serves in an official capacity, pursuant to law.

ORGANIZATION AND ELECTION AND DUTES OF OFFICERS

RULE 1. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and designate a Secretary at the first regular meeting of the Planning Commission in July to serve for a period of one year from the date of their election. However, the Planning Commission, by majority vote, may choose to elect a Chairperson at a different meeting to address a resignation. In the case of a resignation of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall become the interim Chair until formal election of a new Chairperson occurs.

RULE 2. The Chairperson of the Planning Commission shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide questions of order. The Vice Chairperson shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson.

RULE 3. The Chairperson of the Planning Commission may second any motion and present and discuss any matter as a member of the Commission without having to step down from the Chair and shall be entitled to vote on all matters before the Planning Commission.

RULE 4. The Secretary shall be a City Employee, normally the Planning Director.

RULE 5. The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of the Planning Commission minutes and shall assure that all official actions or decisions by the Commission shall be recorded within the minutes. Consistent with Municipal Code section 2.60.030, the Commission shall keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations. Those records are kept as minutes that summarize Commission action, in the same manner as City Council minutes.

RULE 6. The City Attorney of the City of St. Helena shall be the legal counsel to the Planning Commission.

RULE 7. The video recordings of each meeting are designated as the official record of the Planning Commission agenda and action and are to be made available on the City of St Helena website.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

RULE 8. The Planning Commission shall hold at least two Regular Meetings per month, which shall be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. In the event the first or third Tuesday is a holiday, an alternate meeting may be held. An additional Adjourned Meeting may be held, if

necessary. Such regular meetings may be canceled by a vote of the majority of Commission members present at a regular or special meeting or when a quorum is not available. Meetings shall be held in the same locale used by the City Council or at City Hall or the Fire Department starting at 6:00 P.M. Adjourned Meetings, Special Meetings, meeting relocation, or revised starting time shall be by a three-fifths vote of the Planning Commission. Notice of such meeting shall be given in accordance with State law.

RULE 9. Emergency or special meetings may be called as provided in Section 54956 of the Government Code of the State of California.

RULE 10. In the absence of a quorum all items on the agenda shall be continued to the next scheduled meeting.

AGENDA

RULE 11. An agenda shall be prepared by the Secretary of the Planning Commission for each meeting of the Planning Commission.

RULE 12. All matters to be considered by the Commission shall be properly filed with the City in compliance with the provisions, standards, and procedures established by adopted City Ordinances. The Secretary shall not accept for presentation to the Commission any matter unless it is properly made on the prescribed forms properly filled out with all data attached.

RULE 13. Any matter that comes before the Commission orally under Public Forum shall not be discussed or acted upon by the Commission unless and until it is heard as a scheduled agenda item at a Regular, Adjourned, or Special meeting of the Commission.

RULE 14. Request for informal or advance decisions concerning potential future developments or plans will not be considered by the Planning Commission.

RULE 15. The regular order of business of the Commission shall be:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL
3. MINUTES APPROVAL
4. PUBLIC FORUM
5. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS
6. RECOMMENDED CONSENT CALENDAR
7. CONTINUED ITEMS
8. SIGN PERMIT/ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION
9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION IS FINAL (DR/UP/VAR/LLA/TPM)
10. PUBLIC HEARINGS – PUBLIC HEARINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL (TSM/ZOTA/GPA/REZONE)
11. NAPA COUNTY REFERRALS
12. SCHEDULED MATTERS
13. REPORTS BY STAFF AND PLANNING COMMISSION
14. AGENDA FORECAST
15. ADJOURNMENT

RULE 16. The Chairperson may revise the order of the agenda for a particular meeting in order to expedite business for the convenience of the public or for improved continuity.

RULE 17. Commission meetings may remain in session up to, but no later than 10:00 P.M. However, the Commission may, by a unanimous vote, extend the meeting if the Commission deems such extension necessary. Otherwise, the meeting shall be adjourned to another day acceptable to the Commission, or unfinished business may be continued to the next Regular Meeting.

CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

RULE 18. Letters, petitions, or other written material pertaining to any item on the agenda may be filed with the secretary of the Commission prior to the time of the public hearing or may be presented to the Commission at the time of the public hearing. The Commission shall consider such material in deciding any issue before it. All written material shall become part of the Commission's file on the agenda item.

RULE 19. Items submitted after packet distribution: Materials related to any item on the Agenda submitted to the Planning Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for inspection in the Secretary of the Commission's office at 1480 Main Street, St. Helena, CA during normal business hours. All such materials will be brought to the meeting and will be available for public inspection at the meeting site. Either City Staff or the Chairperson at the hearing shall give public notice of any such materials. If copies are not available in sufficient quantity for interested parties or members of the public at the hearing, the Chairperson shall take reasonable steps to afford all such persons the opportunity to inspect the materials before the start of the hearing on a scheduled matter. The purpose of the foregoing is to avoid the interruption of testimony with requests for inspection of materials.

RULE 20. Any person desiring to address the Planning Commission may, when recognized by the Chairperson, give his or her name and address. A person appearing in a representative capacity shall provide the name and address of each represented party.

RULE 21. Testimony and argument relative to any item scheduled on the agenda as a Public Hearing shall, unless otherwise ordered by the Chairperson, be presented in the following order and within the time limits specified.

- a. The Chairperson shall declare the Public Hearing to be open.
- b. Disclosure of Ex Parte Communication*
- c. Staff Report.
- d. Commission questions to staff for purposes of clarification of Staff Report.
- e. Presentation of the project by applicants, and/or agents/consultants directly associated with the project. (10 minutes)
- f. Acknowledge and/or reading of written testimony.
- g. Public Testimony in support or opposition of the project. (3 minutes per person)
- h. Applicant and/or staff response to new information or questions raised by public testimony.
- i. Chairperson declares public hearing to be closed.
- j. Planning Commission debate.
- k. Roll Call Vote.

Note: At the option of the Chairperson the public or applicant may give further testimony on the question, provided it is directly related to the motion.

* Ex Parte Communication is hereby defined as any additional factual information obtained by commissioners that pertains to an individual decision, including visiting a project site, meeting with a project applicant and/or meeting with interested citizens.

RULE 22. The Chairperson may, in the interest of facilitating the business of the Planning Commission, limit the amount of time that a person may use in addressing the Planning Commission. Opponents and proponents shall be given equal opportunity for presentation.

RULE 23. The applicant or his or her appointed representative may, with the permission of the Planning Commission, withdraw, or request a continuance on any matter pending before the Commission at any time prior to the Commission acting on such matter.

VOTING

RULE 24. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise required by federal, state or local regulation, the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum is necessary to take action. If a majority is unable to be assembled on any motion (including a motion to continue a matter to a specific time) relating to a specific project for which the Commission must make a recommendation to the City Council, the project shall be referred to Council with a divided recommendation which reflects the individual votes of the Commissioners. If a majority is unable to be assembled on any motion (including a motion to continue a matter to a specific time) relating to a specific project for which the Commission has final authority, the matter before the Commission shall be deemed denied and the applicant may appeal such decision in accordance with the applicable rules. A tie vote, or deadlock, constitutes a denial unless the applicant requests a continuance of the item to a subsequent meeting at which a quorum is present, prior to a vote to deny the item.

RULE 25. On matters of procedure or order of business the Chairperson may make a motion and without a second and after calling for objection and hearing none, so order. In the event of objection, the Chairperson shall call for a second and a roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

RULE 26. The Commission shall conduct their duties in keeping with the governing standards as provided by the Planning Commission Standards of Conduct document, maintaining the highest level of professionalism during their tenure serving the residents of the City of St. Helena.

RULE 27. Unless otherwise provided by these Rules, all proceedings before the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to the parliamentary rules of procedure as prescribed in “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

RULE 28. Testimony and argument relative to any other item on the agenda shall generally follow the procedure for a Public Hearing as may be modified at the discretion of the Chairperson.

RULE 29. Any rule of these By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed by majority vote of the Commission, except that such alteration, amendment, or repeal shall not affect any pending matter.

RULE 30. Any rule of these By-Laws may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent of the Commission.

RULE 31. A Resolution of the Planning Commission may be adopted conditionally and referred to the Secretary of the Commission for drafting in proper form.

RULE 32. Commission members shall decide for themselves whether they have a conflict of

interest on any matter before the Commission. Such determination shall be made in accordance with State law and Sec. 5 of City Council Resolution 1264 or any amendment thereto. When a member has disqualified himself/herself, he/she shall remove himself/herself from the dais stating their reasons for conflict of interest. The member shall also remove himself/herself from the meeting room, unless they are permitted to remain for a qualified interest as set forth in State law.

RULE 33. Failure to adhere to any of these rules does not result in the invalidation of any decision or action of the Planning Commission.

RULE 34. Any violation of these rules does not result in a cause of action against the City of St. Helena.

RULE 35. Subject to compliance with all established laws and regulations, any violation of these rules shall not impact the outcome of a vote or action on a specific project.

Amended, Approved and Adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission on February 2, 2016, by the following roll call vote:

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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CITY OF ST. HELENA

RESOLUTION No. 2016-32

Resolution of the Council of the City of St Helena adopting revisions to the City of St Helena Planning Commission By-Laws

RECITALS

- A. Whereas, the City of St. Helena Planning Commission voted unanimously to amend its' By-Laws at its Regular Meeting on February 2, 2016; and
- B. Whereas, the City of St Helena Protocol for Committees, Commissions and Boards requires City Council approval of any modifications to the By Laws of a Committee, Commission or Board.

RESOLUTION

Therefore, the City Council of the City of St. Helena hereby resolves as follows:

- 1. This action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act; and
- 2. The City Council authorizes amendments to the City of St Helena Planning Commission By Laws and are hereby approved, as amended by the Planning Commission on February 2, 2016.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the St. Helena City Council on March 8, 2016, by the following vote:

Mayor Galbraith:

yes

Vice Mayor White:

yes

Councilmember Crull:

Absent

Councilmember Dohring:

yes

Councilmember Pitts:

yes

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Alan Galbraith, Mayor




Cindy Black, City Clerk