



City of Santa Barbara

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION & DE LA GUERRA PLAZA ADVISORY COMMITTEE JOINT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 22, 2022

8:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library
40 East Anapamu Street
SantaBarbaraCA.gov

HLC COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Anthony Grumbine, *Chair*
Steve Hausz, *Vice Chair*
Keith Butler
Dennis Doordan
Michael Drury
Ed Lenvik
Justin Manuel
Robert Ooley

DLG PLAZA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kristen Sneddon, *Chair*
Lesley Wiscomb, *Vice Chair*
Michael Drury
Sam Edelman
Steve Hausz
Meagan Harmon
Beebe Longstreet
Anne Petersen
Kathy McGill
Sheila Lodge

ADVISORY MEMBER: Dr. Michael Glassow

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Kristen Sneddon

PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON: Sheila Lodge

STAFF:

Tava Ostrenger, Assistant City Attorney
Ellen Kokinda, Acting Design Review Supervisor
Nicole Hernandez, Architectural Historian
Barbara Burkhart, Assistant Planner
Mary Ternovskaya, Senior Commission Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Full Commission meeting was called to order at 8:42 a.m. by Chair Grumbine.

Staff present: Kokinda, Hernandez, Burkhart, and Ternovskaya

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Roll Call

HLC Commissioners present: Grumbine, Hausz, Butler, Doordan, Drury, Lenvik, and Ooley

HLC Commissioners absent: Manuel

Plaza DLG Commissioners present: Sneddon, Wiscomb, Drury, Hausz, Petersen, McGill, and Lodge

Plaza DLG Commissioners absent: Edelman, Harmon, Longstreet

B. Public Comment:

No public comment.

II. (8:30AM) DISCUSSION ITEM**1. 20 E DE LA GUERRA ST (De La Guerra Plaza)**

Assessor's Parcel Number: 037-092-037
Zone: C-G/P-R
Application Number: PLN2019-00576
Owner: City of Santa Barbara
Applicant: Brad Hess, Public Works Department

(The Plaza De La Guerra Revitalization Project involves raising the entire Plaza, as well as De La Guerra Street between Anacapa Street and State Street, to be level with the existing sidewalk. Proposed improvements include new landscaping, water feature, restrooms, arcade, stage, art nodes, lighting, and trash/ recycling. The [2011 Historic Structures/Sites Report](#) accepted by the HLC found that Plaza De La Guerra is eligible for listing as a City of Santa Barbara Landmark, eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, and eligible for listing as a significant Cultural Landscape in the National Register of Historic Places. Surrounding Plaza De La Guerra are City Hall and the California Pepper Tree, The News Press Building, Casa De La Guerra, and El Paseo, all designated City Landmarks; and the La Placita Building a.k.a. McKay-Bothin Building that is a designated Structure of Merit.)

No final appealable action will be taken at this hearing. The goal of the joint meeting is to discuss and reach consensus on general design direction for several revised design features. Post/Hazeltine and Associates prepared a [memo](#) on the history of the turf. Project was last reviewed on [January 19, 2022](#).

Actual time: 8:46 a.m.

Present: Kathleen Kennedy, Project Planner, City of Santa Barbara; Brad Hess, Applicant, City of Santa Barbara; and Lief McKay, Landscape Architect, RRM Design Group

Staff comments: Ms. Kennedy provided an overview of the history of the De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization project. In February 2019, City Council established the Plaza De La Guerra Advisory Committee, which consists of two City Council members, two Planning Commissioners, two Historic Landmarks Commission members, two Parks and Recreation Commission members, as well as a member from the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and the Santa Barbara Certified Farmer's Market. A public workshop was held in March 2019, as well as a series of Plaza De La Guerra Advisory Committee meetings in 2020. The project was brought to the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) for review in February 2021 for the first time. A joint workshop between the Advisory Committee and the HLC was held in May 2021. Lastly, a subcommittee was formed in March 2022 to review the surface materials for the project.

She went over the agenda sequence for special joint meeting. The next steps for the project are for the project to either go to the City Land Development Team or back to the Advisory Committee for further review.

Public comment opened at 10:06 p.m.,

The following individual(s) spoke:

1. Dennis Thompson
2. John Kelley
3. Robin Elander
4. Kevin Snow

Written correspondence from John Kelley, Paulina Conn, Barbara Lyon, Francesca Galt, James Main, Pamela Boehr, Cars Are Basic, Paulina Conn, Robert Rickard, Edwina Main, Robert Teneyck, Lanny Ebenstein, Robert Friedman, Anonymous, Bonnie Donovan, Susan Chamberlin, Paulina Conn, Judy Cota, Darcy and Bill Sylvester, Bonnie Donovan, Francesca Galt, Richard Closson, Mary Ellen Brooks was acknowledged.

Public comment closed at 10:19 p.m.

Discussion held.

Commission comments:

- While some Commissioners mourn the loss of the turf, there is a fairly consistent consensus that the Commissioners are okay with leaving the turf behind and for the project to go towards a more hardscape design, which is appropriate for Spanish-style plazas and for the long-term maintenance of the plaza.
- The Commissioners are concerned with the potential heat effect and the materials, and recognizes that the applicant shall continue to explore solutions and their cost, with longevity being the key. The Commission looks forward to seeing more materials and the development of the project design based on the hardscape design. The Commission has positive comments regarding the current palette and it is going in the right direction, with the understanding that the color will come with some of the elements and it does not have to be an extremely colorful hardscape pattern.
- The Commission appreciates the pushing of the arcade pavilion back and aligning it more with City Hall and the other buildings in the Plaza. One comment was to look at pushing back the northwest corner to align it more with City Hall, and/or as you look at the Harmer Adobe for inspiration, consider its location and simplicity as a general design direction. The arcade design as shown needs further work, but there is consensus that the structure provides an edge to Plaza, and a consensus on pushing it back and having the green screen behind it.
- Most Commissioners are onboard with where the water feature is currently going in terms of a bubbler, with the pattern and artwork to be continued to be designed. The applicant shall look at Chumash patterns and look at the water feature as a holistic piece within the larger art program. One Commissioner was not set on this current location for the water feature, especially if there is another location that makes more sense, depending on how you develop the hardscape pattern and palette. Consider being open to the location of the water feature as the hardscape design continues.
- The restroom design with simple shed roof is acceptable and the rendering showing plantings help the Commission understand that it is very visually unobtrusive, fits well, and is acceptable.

- The front design of City Hall is supportable but needs more work. The general idea and the idea of a demonstration garden is a nice idea but the whole thing needs to work as a great entrance to City Hall.
- The project shall return to the DLG Plaza Advisory Committee, the project is not ready for City Land Development review. When it comes back, the Committee would like to see the pavement subcommittee's work outcome and see preliminary work from the art/culture subcommittee.
- Staff invited Commissioners Drury, Petersen, and McGill to a subcommittee to guide the art, culture, and historic materials in the project. The Commission requested that a Chumash Representative also be invited to this subcommittee.

*** MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:28 A.M. ***