AGENDA  Tuesday, February 14, 2017

A. ROLL CALL

B. MINUTES

   B.1 Approval of Minutes of the regular Planning Commission meeting of Tuesday, January 24, 2017. (MOTION)

C. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Anyone wishing to address the Commission on any planning item not on the Agenda may take the podium and state his/her name and address clearly for the recorder.)

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

F. STAFF REPORTS

   F.1 Review and recommend approval of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – from Assistant City Manager Grindall and Public Works Director Fajeau. (MOTION)

G. COMMISSION MATTERS

   G.1 Report on City Council actions.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5: Supplemental materials distributed less than 72 hours before this meeting, to a majority of the Planning Commission, will be made available for public inspection at this meeting and at the Planning Division Counter located at 37101 Newark Boulevard, 1st Floor, during normal business hours. Materials prepared by City staff and distributed during the meeting are available for public inspection at the meeting or after the meeting if prepared by some other person. Documents related to closed session items or are exempt from disclosure will not be made available for public inspection.
A. ROLL CALL

At 7:36 p.m., Chairperson Nillo called the meeting to order. All Planning Commissioners were present.

Assistant City Manager Grindall introduced Deputy Community Development Director Art Interiano to the Planning Commission.

B. MINUTES

B.1 Approval of Minutes of the regular Planning Commission meeting of Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

Commissioner Fitts moved, Commissioner Bridges seconded, to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2016. The motion passed 5 AYES.

C. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

F. STAFF REPORTS

None.
G. COMMISSION MATTERS

G.1 ASC-16-19, an Administrative Special Civic Review, for additions to a single-family residence at 5255 Orkney Court.

Assistant Planner Bowab gave the staff report and reminded the Planning Commission that this item is review optional.

The Planning Commission chose not to review this item.

G.2 Report on City Council actions.

None.

Discussion ensued on moving the next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting to a different date. The consensus was to hold the next meeting on its scheduled date of February 14, 2017.

Commissioners’ Comments

Commissioner Fitts stated his appreciation to the City’s Public Works Department for keeping the streets cleared of fallen leaves.

Commissioner Aguilar welcomed DCDD Interiano.

Chairperson Nillo congratulated Commissioner Fitts on the birth of his grandson.

H. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 p.m., Chairperson Nillo adjourned the regular Planning Commission meeting of Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in the memories of Newark Police Officer Oskar Reyes and former Assistant City Manager Dennis Jones. Motion to adjourn was passed 5 AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

TERRENCE GRINDALL
Secretary
F.1 Review and recommend approval of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – from Assistant City Manager Grindall and Public Works Director Fajeau. (MOTION)

Background/Discussion – The City Council previously approved a grant funding agreement with the Alameda County Transportation Commission to fund preparation of the Newark Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The master plan is a long-term planning document that will provide a vision of Newark’s future biking and walking environment and is also a necessary tool that will allow the City to compete for discretionary local, state and federal funding for future bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The City entered into a contract with Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants for preparation of the plan which is now ready for final review and approval. The plan addresses all Alameda County Transportation Commission Bicycle Master Plan Guidelines and Caltrans Active Transportation Program Guidelines.

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan has five primary goals:

1. Create a connected bicycle and pedestrian network.
2. Increase the number of people walking and bicycling.
3. Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
4. Develop a comprehensive Safe Routes to School program and supporting infrastructure plan.
5. Establish Citywide design guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

A number of detailed policies are included in the Master Plan document to address these primary goals. Additionally, the Master Plan identifies a variety of relevant local, regional, state, and federal planning and policy documents to help ensure a consistent approach to future bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Among these documents are the Transportation Element of the City of Newark’s General Plan, the City’s Complete Streets Policy, the Newark-Fremont Bay Trail Feasibility Study, and various bicycle and pedestrian plans from other nearby jurisdictions as well as Alameda County.

In addition to the goals and policy context, the plan includes chapters for both a Bikeway Element and a Pedestrian Element. These chapters identify needs, examine existing conditions, discuss types of facilities, and include specific recommendations for improvements. A chapter is dedicated to needs and recommendations for improvements in and around Newark’s public schools to address the Safe Routes to Schools component. Recommended support programs for biking and walking to supplement existing programs are also identified. The Master Plan document includes criteria for prioritizing both bicycle and pedestrian projects and provides recommendations for funding and implementation of all identified projects. The plan is supplemented with appendices that incorporate additional polices, project listings, and detailed design guidelines.
Development of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan included an extensive outreach process. A local Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was formed and several workshops and meetings were held where input was obtained from the BPAC and the community at large. On February 2, 2017, the City’s BPAC voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve the master plan.

The Master Plan is a planning document which does not include commitments to specific improvements. Since no changes to the environment would result, this Master Plan is not considered a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act. Any specific project proposed in the future would be analyzed for potential environmental impacts prior to any discretionary action by the Planning Commission or City Council.

Attachment

Action - It is recommended that the Planning Commission, by motion, recommend that the City Council approve the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.