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**CITY OF SIERRA MADRE  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of  
Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frierman-Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chair Frierman-Hunt, Vice Chair Spears, Commissioners Buckles, Desai,  
Hinton, Hutt, Pevsner  
**Staff:** Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning & Community Preservation  
Leticia Cardoso, Planning Manager  
Jennifer Peterson, Administrative Analyst  
Terri Highsmith, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Hutt moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Spears seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2016**

Vice Chair Spears moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hutt seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. MUNICIPAL CODE TEXT AMENDMENT 16-04 (MCTA 16-04): Amendments to Chapter  
17.22 – Second Unit Ordinance of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to Achieve Compliance  
with Senate Bill 1069**

Director Gonzalez delivered the staff report.

The Commission discussed the potential of unintended consequences of implementation  
of this amendment.

**Public Comment**

Rodney Spears

N. Canon

Mr. Spears spoke regarding the height restriction.

Joe Catalano

N. Lima

Mr. Catalano spoke in favor of adoption of the amendment. He provided further information on the height requirement, and building code for garages and stated that most wouldn't meet International Building Code standards for habitation.

Caroline Brown

Alta Vista Dr.

Ms. Brown spoke against adoption, as it impairs the neighbor's input.

Barbara Leigh

Requested clarification on fire code. She also commented on the height, and parking requirements.

**Discussion**

Chair Frierman-Hunt commented on the application of angle plane height restriction. The Commission discussed possible scenarios of differing combinations of various sized lots and second units.

Chair Frierman-Hunt requested to add a definition of "conversion" which would restrict development to the existing footprint.

The Commission agreed by consensus to limit new building height to 12 feet and the addition of definition of "conversion".

**ACTION: Commissioner Desai moved to approve Planning Commission Resolution 16-11. Commissioner Hutt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**DISCUSSION**

**1. DISCUSSION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 17.60.56 – Discretionary Demolition Permit Ordinance**

Commissioner Buckles recused himself due to his living next door to the house that is the inspiration for the demolition ordinance and amendments.

Director Gonzalez delivered the staff report.

The Commission reviewed the redline ordinance.

94  
95 **Public Comment**  
96

97 Barry Gold

98 Ramona Ave.

99 Mr. Gold spoke in favor of amendments to the existing code. He also spoke in favor of  
100 stricter penalties for violation of the code  
101

102 Caroline Brown

103 Alta Vista Dr.

104 Ms. Brown spoke of past historic demolitions  
105

106 The Commission reviewed penalty options for non-compliance.  
107

108 **Action: The Commission agreed by consensus to continue to a date uncertain**  
109 **due to the late hour.**  
110

111 **ORAL COMMUNICATION**  
112

113 **Audience Comments**  
114

115 None.  
116

117 **Planning Commission**  
118

119 None.  
120

121 **Planning & Community Preservation**  
122

123 Director Gonzales stated that the next meeting would be scheduled for December 1,  
124 2016.  
125

126 **Adjournment**  
127

128 Chair Frierman-Hunt adjourned the Planning Commission meeting at 11:07 pm  
129  
130

131  
132 \_\_\_\_\_  
132 Secretary to the Planning Commission

133 Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning & Community Preservation