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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:02]

Mayor Ortega: I call the July 2, 2024 City Council Special meeting to order. City Clerk, Ben Lane, please conduct the roll call.

ROLL CALL

[Time: 00:00:15]

City Clerk Ben Lane: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor David Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Present.

Ben Lane: Vice Mayor Barry Graham.

Vice Mayor Graham: Here.

Ben Lane: Councilmembers Tammy Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Here.

Ben Lane: Tom Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Here.

Ben Lane: Betty Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Here.

Ben Lane: Kathy Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Here.

Ben Lane: And Solange Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Here.

Ben Lane: City Manager Jim Thompson.

Jim Thompson: Here.

Ben Lane: City Attorney Sherry Scott.

Sherry Scott: Here.

Ben Lane: City Treasurer Sonia Andrews.

Sonia Andrews: Here.

Ben Lane: Acting City Auditor Lai Cluff.

Lai Cluff: Here.

Ben Lane: And the Clerk is present. Thank you, Mayor.

AGENDA ITEM 1

[Time: 00:00:40]

Mayor Ortega: Excellent. Our one agenda item has to do with the Boards, Commissions and Task Force interviews. I will turn the meeting over to the Vice Mayor Graham who will be chairing the portion of the meeting.

[Time: 00:00:54]

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, thank you very much, Mayor. The Scottsdale City Council is responsible for establishing city policies and enacting laws in support of those policies. The Council relies on volunteer, citizen-based boards and commissions to research issues and make recommendations in support of the Council's mission and goals. The information and recommendations provided by Council-appointed advisory boards is a valuable tool in helping us in our deliberations.

This evening, the City Council will be appointing a Scottsdale resident interested in serving on the Development Review Board (DRB). I want to thank the individuals before us today, and all those who applied leading up to today for their willingness to volunteer their time in service to community.

Following the set of interviews, the Council will vote on the appointment to the DRB. As I call your name, please approach the podium, and briefly cover the following: please state your name and address and how long you have lived in the city. Tell us your education, employment, volunteer experience and what and tell us what you think is the top issue facing this board. Please limit your comments to two minutes or less. We have a timer by the screen to help you manage your time. Following each nominee's response, I will ask Councilmembers if they have any follow-up questions for you.

The purpose of Development Review Board (DRB) is to review and approve the architectural design and layout of proposed development plans. Special qualifications: As outlined in the Scottsdale City Code, membership shall consist of a City Councilmember, a Planning Commissioner and five public members. There is one opening and three nominees. Steven Sussholz has withdrawn his application from consideration.

So, tonight's nominees. I believe there's one nominee before us tonight, and so I will start with Ms. Julie Berry. Who I'm told is unable to join us today, but she is interested in serving on the board. So, she will not be joining us telephonically, excuse me, or in person.

So, to the next person, I will move on to Danielle Davis who will be participating tonight, electronically. So, I will refer it to the City Clerk. Thank you. Ms. Davis when you are ready, please begin your comments.

[Time: 00:02:56]

Danielle Davis: Okay, good. Sorry about that. Good evening, Mayor and City Councilmembers is. Thank you for allowing me to call in. I had a family vacation with my kids planned previously. So, my name is Danielle Davis, and I'm an Arizona native. I have lived and worked actually in Scottsdale for most of my adult life which gives me a vested interest in the city's growth and development.

Throughout my almost 20-year career now in commercial real estate here in Scottsdale, I have gained a deep understanding of the Scottsdale market and why people choose to locate their businesses here. I feel this knowledge can be invaluable while assessing development proposals as I'm able to provide insight into the market trends and demands for different types of properties and the potential impact of a new project.

My career has given me insight into the development process including planning, design, permitting and construction. I have experience working with the wide range of shareholders, include business owners, property owners, community members and developers. My extensive experience in commercial real estate equips me with a unique perspective and skill set which will promote thoughtful development in the city that I love.

My observation is that we need to continue to be mindful of Scottsdale's history and appeal and maintain community benefit that is expected in Scottsdale and continue to make it a great place to live, work and play. I intend to view each project on its own merits and give recommendations that will continue to support quality and design unique to Scottsdale, focusing on design elements that truly make our community a special place.

As a commercial real estate broker and in my day-to-day interaction with the community and the environment, I have an intimate understanding of the importance of visual quality and can offer constructive viewpoint of each and every project brought forth. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

[Time: 00:05:06]

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Miss Davis and I will ask my colleagues if there are any questions for you. I may ask one quick question, Miss Davis, if you can hear me.

Danielle Davis: Yes.

Vice Mayor Graham: Can you think of...

Danielle Davis: I can hear you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Can you think of an example across the city of a design of a building that didn't meet your standards?

Danielle Davis: No, not one that didn't meet my standards and I really can't speak to that, just because I don't unless I, you know, I'm on the board and I have all the information, and, you know, then I could probably speak better to it. I think a project I do really love is in Old Town is the Kimsey. The Kimsey project, I know that they incorporated the a-frame historical building and I think they you know just the way they kept that building and want to preserve it and incorporate it in you know, in the development. I thought that was great.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you very much, Ms. Davis. I will next call up Ms. Donna Robinson to the podium. Ms. Donna Robinson is here in person. Just to reiterate, please state your name, address and how long you lived in Scottsdale, your credentials and the top issue facing the city. Thank you.

[Time: 00:06:07]

Donna Robinson: Thank you for inviting me this evening. Oh.

Councilmember Whitehead: I think it's on now.

Mayor Ortega: Get close to it.

Vice Mayor Graham: You can adjust the microphone a little closer.

Donna Robinson: Thank you for inviting me here this evening. My name is Donna Robinson, I live at 12317 East Black Rock Road in Scottsdale, north Scottsdale, up by Tom's Thumb. I've lived here for a year, but I have been coming down to Scottsdale for the last 33 years. And so, I've seen a lot of changes and during that time, we were one of the first owners at the Four Seasons Residence Club. So, I have been actively involved in this area for quite some time.

So, my background is I have a bachelor's in landscape architecture, a master's in architecture and urban design, a certificate in transportation planning, and then a lot of extensive education in environmental sciences. I started my career in architecture and urban design as urban designer for Sarasota County, Florida. Then I went on to be campus planner for the University of Chicago and after that, worked in public and agency work. And then into consulting where my emphasis was on NEPA or National Environmental Policy Act projects and I managed large infrastructure projects that ranged from highway to energy, to land development for residential development and commercial development.

So, I feel like I'm well qualified for this. I've worked on both sides of the table as a person reviewing for publication agencies and writing design and development guidelines, and then also as a consultant, developing projects in just a just a realm of areas.

When I thought about the question of what is facing the city, you know, I don't think it's one issue, but I think critical one is maintaining livability while dealing with density and congestion and safety probably are the top priorities.

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you very much. I will ask my colleagues if they might have any questions for you. I may pose the same question I asked Miss Davis, if you can think of a building in the city that might not have met architectural design standards, your design standards.

Donna Robinson: My design being somewhat opinionated, I...

Vice Mayor Graham: We want your opinion.

Donna Robinson: Yeah. I there's not I don't think of one particular project that stand as out, but I do think that some of the current projects, the current higher density projects could be a little bit more sensitive to the environment with the development of open space and just fitting within the realm of development that's been going on here.

Vice Mayor Graham: Ms. Robinson, thank you very much.

Donna Robinson: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: Well, now that we heard from all the speakers oh, I'm so sorry. Councilmember, Caputi.

[Time: 00:09:48]

Councilmember Caputi: I was just curious, you lived elsewhere for a long time and Scottsdale for a year. Where did you move from?

Donna Robinson: I moved from Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Councilmember Caputi: Okay.

Donna Robinson: So, and the firm I worked for there was Dowl, d,o,w,l, which is also a consulting firm here in Phoenix.

Councilmember Caputi: Great and I just want to point out because I know we'll ask the next person the same question, that Development Review Board's purview is design and sort of contextual design basically. We don't really get involved in terms of density or zoning issues on Development Review Board.

Donna Robinson: Okay.

Councilmember Caputi: Thank you so much.

Vice Mayor Graham: Just to correct you, there's no next person. So, with that, I want to thank I want to thank the speakers. Oh, yeah. So, with that, I want to thank all the speakers for coming before us and Rommel Cordova is here to tally the vote and I will entertain that vote for DRB and I would like to start with the Mayor, right in the middle.

[Time: 00:10:56]

Mayor Ortega: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Graham: If I can start with you and go to the right or the audience left.

Mayor Ortega: You're to my right. Thank you. Donna Robinson.

Councilmember Whitehead: Donna Robinson.

Councilmember Durham: Donna Robinson.

Vice Mayor Graham: Miss Robinson.

Councilmember Caputi: Danielle Davis.

Councilmember Janik: Sorry, Donna Robinson.

Councilmember Littlefield: Donna Robinson.

[Time: 00:11:23]

Vice Mayor Graham: Very good. We are all voted. Rommel, do you have everything you need. This concludes our appointment process for today. I would like to thank on behalf of all of my colleagues up here, I'd like to thank all of our nominees and applicants for their interest in serving DRB. I want to congratulate Ms. Robinson for her appointment to DRB and we always say that we are fortunate to continue to receive qualified applicants for the positions for all of our boards and commissions.

Even if you were not appointed today, your application remains on file for a year and will remain on file for a year for consideration for future date if there are vacancies. City staff will contact those appointed this evening with information on next steps, and again, the City of Scottsdale is very fortunate to have such dedicated and talented individuals who are willing and ready to serve our city.

So, thank you, Mayor, for allowing me to conduct this part of the meeting and if you will allow me, I will return the meeting to you.

Mayor Ortega: Excellent. We are concluded with the business. So therefore, I will adjourn the Special Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

[Time: 00:12:30]