

Introduced by Councilmember _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AMENDING TITLE 2, TO CHANGE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION

The People of the City of Pasadena ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 2, Chapter 80, Section 30, which governs the membership of the Design Commission, is amended as follows:

“2.80.030 Membership – Appointment and terms.

- A. The commission shall consist of 9 members, who shall be appointed as follows:
1. The mayor shall nominate ~~6~~ 5 members from persons nominated by the city council.
 2. The ~~community development committee~~, the transportation advisory commission, the arts and culture commission, the cultural heritage commission and the planning commission shall each nominate 1 member for a total of ~~3~~ 4 members.
 3. All appointments are subject to ratification by the city council.”

SECTION 2. Title 2, Chapter 80, Section 40, which also governs the membership of the Design Commission, is amended in part as follows:

- “B. The criteria for selection of members shall be a demonstrated interest in the community and professional expertise and experience in a design related field, including one or more of the following fields:
1. Architecture;
 2. Landscape architecture;
 3. City planning;
 4. Historic preservation;
 5. Artist;
 6. Urban Design;
 7. Engineering, and
 8. Transportation Planning.”

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect upon its publication.

Signed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2006.

Bill Bogaard
Mayor of the City of Pasadena

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of Pasadena at its meeting held _____ day of _____ 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

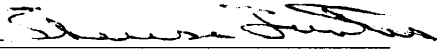
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Date Published:

Jane L. Rodriguez, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Theresa E. Fuentes
Deputy City Attorney

**CORRESPONDENCE
FROM
NOVEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING**

Community Development Committee
City of Pasadena

November 14, 2005

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

05 NOV 14 P2:46

RECEIVED

The Honorable William J. Bogaard
Mayor, and
Members of the City Council
City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 91109

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Members of the City Council:

At its meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2005, the Community Development Committee (CDC) voted unanimously to communicate to you about the proposal to restructure the Design Commission.

The Committee requests that you defer making the decision to remove the CDC seat from the Design Commission until you have had the opportunity of receiving input from the CDC.

There was a sense among the Committee members that making this type of decision on a staff recommendation without seeking the opinions of the volunteers involved is contrary to the Pasadena tradition of community involvement. Open decision-making after consultation with concerned stakeholders is an honored practice in our great city.

The Committee looks forward to providing you with its advice and comments on this matter.

Respectfully,



John Kennedy
Chair
Community Development Committee

CC: Cynthia Kurtz, City Manager
Jane Rodriguez, City Clerk

11/14/2005
9.A.1.

Subject: CDC removal from Design Commission

Date: Sun, 13 Nov 2005 16:12:05 -0800

From: James Lomako <lomako@earthlink.net>

To: Bill Bogaard <bbogaard@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Chris Holden <cholden@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Joyce Streater <jstreater@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Paul Little <plittle@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Sid Tyler <styler@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Steve Haderlein <shaderlein@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Steve Madison <smadison@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, Victor Gordo <vgordo@ci.pasadena.ca.us>

CC: bjacobs@ci.pasadena.ca.us

Dear Mayor Bogaard and City Council Members

Before you vote to remove the Community Development Committee seat from the Design Commission, please consider my comments. Having held that seat for four years I can speak from the experience of serving through several budget cycles and through many issues, including having the privilege of participating in the progress of affordable housing projects from an initial proposal all the way through final design review and subsequent financial analysis.

Since your vote on restructuring the Design Commission coincides with a Design Commission meeting, I must write to you rather than providing my comments in person.

Having a CDC member on the Design Commission benefits both commissions.

In its oversight of redevelopment project areas, the ability of the CDC to competently advise you is enhanced by having a wide understanding of the performance of those areas. Budget reviews and work plan analysis are very helpful in giving CDC members a broad perspective but other avenues of information are helpful as well.

Obviously, a measure of the vitality and growth in redevelopment areas is the amount of building and rehabilitation. Most of that work does not in itself come to the attention of the CDC but much does come before the Design Commission. In my reports to the CDC about the Design Commission, I always try to inform my colleagues about projects within the redevelopment areas. I think that the enhanced perspective is quite useful in many ways such as helping to provide a better view of what types of assistance are likely to be most effective and appropriate and whether current programs remain relevant.

The other category of design reviews that are of particular interest to the CDC are those of affordable housing projects that have received financial assistance from the city. Getting firsthand reports on the design issues and progress through design review is helpful to the CDC in its overall assessment of a particular project as well as in the future consideration of similar projects. One issue that has come to the attention of the CDC through participation in design review - and will hopefully work its way to the City Council - is the incorporation of "green" building standards such as passive heating and cooling (which can reduce utility costs to lower income tenants) into affordable housing.

While the CDC benefits from its relationship with the Design Commission, the city may be even better served by the impact that the CDC seat can have on the Design Commission. It is the responsibility of the CDC seat holder to look at projects from the perspective of the mission of the CDC. While it would be inappropriate for any Design Commissioner to depart from the proper standards of review, it is important to consider how a project's design affects the vitality of its surroundings and the city's development goals. I think that is a responsibility of the CDC seat in general as well as for specific project areas.

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

05 NOV 14 P 2:45

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11/14/2005
9.A.1.

In my experience, the most tangible and direct results of the CDC seat on design review are with respect to assisted affordable housing. Making effective use of limited affordable housing funds while achieving design excellence can be a difficult balancing act. It is a responsibility of the CDC seat holder to maintain awareness of the part of the equation that benefits those in need as well as maintains cultural diversity.

An example of how this works in practice occurred during final design review of the Orange Grove Gardens project. There was some suggestion of requiring design enhancements, mainly to secondary facades, that were estimated to add about \$300,000 to the cost of the project. I pointed out that the project had probably exhausted any other source of funding and would most likely need to seek any additional funds from the city. I also pointed out that \$300,000 might be able to provide the assistance necessary to create four or more affordable units in the city. The already fine design was quickly approved without the need for costly changes.

My experience leads to my view that the CDC seat on the Design Commission is worth maintaining. There may be equally compelling cases to be made for other alternatives but so far they have not been fully articulated. Until that has happened, I think it would be premature to restructure the Design Commission.

Respectfully,
James Lomako

TO: Pasadena City Council

DATE: November 14, 2005

FROM: Design Commission

SUBJECT: Ordinance to Change the Membership of the Design Commission
City Council Agenda Item 9.A.1.

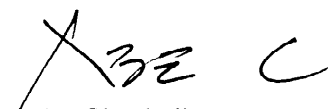
After making the finding that this matter came to its attention after the agenda had already been posted and required immediate action which could not wait for the next regularly scheduled meeting, the Design Commission took the following action:

Direct the chair to communicate to the City Council that the Design Commission requests that the City Council take no action that would change the membership of the Design Commission unless the Design Commission has been consulted and offered the opportunity to provide comments on any such proposed change.

This action was taken by the following vote:

Yes X(8) No _____ Abstain _____ Absent 1

Respectfully Submitted,


Abe Chorbajian
Chair

11/14/2005

9.A.1.

Submitted by Design Commission