

LA HABRA PLANNING COMMISSION

The City of La Habra Planning Commission plays an important role in the planning process, which is predicated upon these fundamental beliefs:

- a) Citizen involvement – Goals are best established through public discussion and government should be open and accountable to the public at every step of the planning process.
- b) Smaller is better – The concept of “local control” is central to American political philosophy. The Planning Commission acts to protect a community’s sense of place, providing another forum for the public to express opinions on projects and policies, and to receive commonsense responses from policy makers.
- c) The market system is supreme – we live in a society that places on importance on the market; shortcomings in the system are corrected by orderly and well-reasoned regulation and reform. The Planning Commission balances public and private interests with fairness and common sense.
- d) Orderly growth – Planning occurs through the orderly, efficient, and timely development to policies, programs, services to best meet public need.

The Planning Commission was established in 1949 to advise the City Council on land use matters. The City Council may choose to follow the Planning Commission’s recommendations, revise/modify Planning Commission actions, or send a proposal back to the Planning Commission for further review. Decisions made by the Planning Commission are subject to appeal to the City Council. The City Council retains final authority in all City matters.

The Planning Commission consists of five members, each of whom is a La Habra resident. He/she is appointed by the City Council and serves a term of four (4) years. All terms are staggered so that the terms of no more than two (2) members shall expire each year. Each member shall serve until his or her successor is appointed by the City Council.

The Planning Commission meets twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

The Community Development Department’s Planning Division is the Planning Commission’s staff. City Planners advise Planning Commissioners on the City’s General Plan, Specific Plan, Zoning Ordinance, applicable subdivision ordinances, and other land use regulations. In addition, City Planners provide background information and recommendations on matters before Planning Commission, answer technical questions, and make sure meetings are properly advertised in accordance with law.

The types of projects that the Planning Commission may consider include, but are not limited to: Conditional Use Permits, Variances, and/or Special Event Permits. The Planning Commission may also consider and provide recommendations to the City Council on other land

use applications, such as Tentative Parcel or Tract Maps, Text Amendments, Specific Plans, Zone Changes, and/or General Plan Amendments.

A Planning Commissioner is an individual who can serve the long-range interests of the La Habra community, who is unbound by election promises, political expediency, or narrow interests. A Planning Commissioner should always consider how an action taken today may affect the La Habra of tomorrow. Because they may have different perspective on matters that come before them, Planning Commissioners should exhibit respect for others and be aware of La Habra's traditions and heritage of the past.