

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice President Scott Means, Board members Samantha Green, Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, Bernie Wolf, and Gerald Bryant.

Absent: President Sarah Lewis and Board member Michelle Buchholz (Excused).

City staff: Marcie Johnson, Eric Fonstein, Amanda Olson, Danielle Mieler, Lisa Foster, and CivicSpark Fellow Yasamin Obaidy.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A Review and Approve December 1, 2022 Draft Minutes

This item will be carried over to the next SSHRB meeting, due to lack of the four members who were present at the December 1, 2022 meeting.

[Note: According to the Alameda Municipal Code Section 2-9.3b, "The votes of a majority of the entire membership of the Board shall be necessary to take any action thereof." Also, according to SSHRB's Rules and Procedures G.4.m (Voting): "A vote of four (4) members at a properly called meeting shall be necessary for any action of the Board."]

3-B Review and Approve January 26, 2023 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the January 26 minutes was made by Board member Green and seconded by Board member Wolf. Ayes: Vice President Means, Board members Green, Yamashiro-Omi, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 4-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Endorse the Annual Report on the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) and the Annual Report on Transportation

The presentation was given by staff members Danielle Mieler, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, and Lisa Foster, Transportation Manager. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Adopted in 2019, CARP is the framework for Alameda's contribution to slowing climate change and adapting to its effects through promoting clean transportation, clean buildings, sequestering carbon, and reducing waste.
- In 2020, Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) began providing 100% clean energy to all customers in the City.
- CARP seeks to promote the purchase and installation of low-emission / electric vehicles and charging stations; offering a variety of rebates to qualifying customers.
- In 2023, the City of Alameda will be developing an Urban Forest Plan to update and expand its 2010 Master Street Tree Plan also to include park trees and overall street tree canopies.
- The City of Alameda has a goal of zero traffic deaths or severe injuries by 2035; in 2022, two people died in crashes after exiting the Webster tube, and 13 were severely injured in unrelated traffic incidents.
- In 2022, the City improved safety at 113 intersections (70% of which were high-injury corridors) and added 1.7 miles of new bikeways.
- 2023 Capital work plan includes the design plans/construction to improve; the Lincoln / Marshall / Pacific Avenue corridor, the Clement Avenue / Tilden Way extension, the Central Avenue safety improvement, etc.

Public Comments – None.

Board Comments

- Board member Bryant: Expressed his concern regarding the Central Avenue project. He believes that the projected changes (reducing the number of vehicle lanes) will inevitably cause more traffic, as Central Avenue is one of the main routes for trucks on and off the island. In addition, highlighting the new housing being built will impact the number of vehicles on the road. Comment from Danielle Mieler: City staff found the number of registered vehicles (within Alameda) has reduced by more than 1000 in the last five years.

A motion to approve the Annual Reports on Transportation and CARP was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Green. Ayes: Vice President Means, Board members Green, Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

5-B Review and Revise as Needed the Draft 2023 Community Needs Assessment

Public Comments – None.

Board Comments

- Board member Yamashiro-Omi: Asked for the subcommittee to update the youth section; to include school dropout rates/percentages defined by race and ethnicity. Answer from Eric Fonstein: Noted the request and will add this information.

5-C Discussion of the Social Service Human Relations Board 2023 Work Plan

Public Comments – None.

Board Comments

- Board member Yamashiro-Omi: Asked if the plan was to review the 2022 Work Plan and perform a semi-annual progress assessment. Staff member Eric Fonstein: opened an electronic copy for everyone to view and asked the Board to identify uncompleted tasks that should carry over to the current FY2023-24 Work Plan.
- Board member Green: Confirmed that the subcommittee will revise as needed and send an updated version, no later than, March 6.

5-D Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Reports

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz/Wolf) – 2023 quarterly meetings need to be scheduled.
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant) – The subcommittee is working on an innovative way to bring the message to the people of Alameda; proposed an in-school training, where individuals from various ethnic backgrounds are invited to discuss their lives and personal experiences
- Infrastructure Workgroup (Lewis, Means) – No update.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Status Report on Homeless Services

Staff member Johnson provided the following status on the City of Alameda's Homeless Services:

- Construction of Dignity Village, the 47-unit, interim supportive housing project being built at 2350 5th Street continues. Staff is working diligently to coordinate support and collaboration between City departments and prepare for the opening of the project. The anticipated timing for the Certificate of Occupancy is late April. The grand opening event is hosted by the City, service provider Five Keys Schools and Programs, and the developer DignityMoves has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd. We hope that the members here are willing and able to attend. Please look for an official invitation soon. Staff is currently supporting the program by meeting with Alameda service providers charged with serving unhoused individuals on Alameda streets, researching furniture for the project, meeting weekly with the developer and service provider, and every other week with the developer and City department staff from Building and Planning, Public Works, Alameda Fire Department, the Assistant City Attorney, the Assistant City Manager, and others as needed to ensure communication and adherence to the tight construction timeframe set forth by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Staff, Five Keys, and DignityMoves hosted a virtual community meeting to present the project's progress and answer questions from neighbors on January 31. A link to the recording is available on the City's Homelessness Initiatives and Efforts page as well as a sign up for the next community meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 5 from 6 to 7 pm.
- On February 7, 2023, all City Council members present voted in favor of additional funding to keep the Winter Warming Shelter at Christ Episcopal Church open seven days a week. The Housing Consortium of the East Bay and The Village of

Love continue to subcontract with the Church to provide shelter staff – HCEB on the weekdays and VOL on the weekends. Staff reported to Council on February 7 that an average of 16 persons use the shelter per night at an average cost of \$77 per night per individual served. In addition to the Warming Shelter, Building Futures with Women and Children continues to run Winter Warming Services and is sheltering 6 to 7 medically fragile individuals nightly.

- At the February 21, 2023 Council meeting, the opening of a fourth Emergency Supportive Housing program home and the related agreement for preparation and maintenance of the physical homes in the program was approved by a 4 to 1 vote. The fourth home will add 6 beds to the program and is predicted to open in mid-May. The Village of Love is the approved service provider for the program and Cerda-Zein Real Estate is the approved property manager. Since the program's opening in mid-November 2022, 21 persons have been served by the program. Public comments supporting the agreements spoke to the need for housing and several VOL clients testified to the services they received from VOL in the past and the present and the overwhelming impact stable housing has had on their journey toward self-sufficiency.

6-B Status of Return to In-Person or Hybrid Board Meetings

Staff member Eric Fonstein: Starting in March, the City is returning to in-person meetings. Board members will be required to attend meetings in person, and members of the public will have the option of attending in person or via Zoom. Asked Board members to arrive 15 to 20 minutes early for the March 23 meeting to review the new set-up.

Vice President Means: Asked for an update on the City's vaccine policy and mask mandate. Answer from Marcie Johnson: Currently, the City of Alameda does not have a vaccine or mask mandate. However, she strongly suggests the use of a mask during in-person meetings.

Board member Wolf: Strongly suggests that the City develops a better strategy to ensure safety for the Board members and members of the public. Response from Marcie Johnson: She and Eric Fonstein will relay his concerns to the appropriate personnel, and she suggested that he submit for a medical exemption for the March 23 meeting.

Board member Yamashiro-Omi: Asked where Board members should park for the meeting(s). Answer from Eric Fonstein: Parking is available in the lot behind City Hall, located on Oak Street.

6-C Next Steps in CDBG grant applications: Board members to individually review and score applications in early February 2023

The presentation was given by staff member Amanda Olson which included instructions for scoring applications, examples of previous scoring, and the scoring deadline (February 27 at 9 AM). She offered to assist Board members with any questions that arise during the process.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

None.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Means adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.