

DRAFT MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY OF ALAMEDA HISTORICAL ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

1. CONVENE

Chair Thomas Saxby called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Due to Governor Executive Order N-08-21, Citizens can attend the meeting via teleconference.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Saxby, Board Members Jones, Lau, Sanchez, Wit.

Absent: None.

3. MINUTES

3-A 2021-1256

Draft meeting Minutes - May 6, 2021

Chair Saxby made a motion to approve the minutes as it. Vice-Chair Norman Sanchez seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

3-B 2021-1235

Draft Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2021, Joint Planning Board and Historical Advisory Board Meeting.

Chair Saxby clarified that he denied ever saying that the McKay Ave location was not appropriate for a homeless shelter. The public speaker who said that had quoted him incorrectly.

Chair Saxby made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Vice-Chair Sanchez seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

4. AGENDA CHANGES AND DISCUSSION

None

5. ORAL COMMUNICATION

None

6. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

<https://alameda.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9779192&GUID=2623B268-2B32-4F69-84EB-CBB324E684AD>

7. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

7-A 2021-1252

Review and Comment on Revisions to the City Council Policy for Naming City Property, Facilities, and Streets (Naming Policy). The proposed amendment is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and Public Resources Code Section 21065. No further environmental review is needed.

Allen Tai, Secretary to the board and City Planner introduced this item and gave a presentation. Staff Report and attachments can be found at <https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5117355&GUID=9C4598DE-58DA-4094-B823-55D94647D869&FullText=1>.

Chair Saxby opened the board clarifying questions.

Board Member Jenn Wit asked if someone on the city staff would be tasked with keeping a list of historically relevant indigenous names, Alamedians of note, or would they just let the community bring names forward.

Staff Member Tai the idea would be to let the community bring names forward. This helped get the community more involved. This board could give feedback about keeping a list though.

Chair Saxby added that the Alameda Museum and places like that would have a deep knowledge of historical names.

Staff Member Tai clarified no list would be destroyed, it would live on in the public record.

Vice-Chair Saxby discussed some of the problems about only letting residents of the street have a say in its renaming. He wanted to find a way to let all residents of Alameda participate in the process.

Staff Member Tai discussed why residents on streets that were being renamed only could decide instead of letting everyone weigh in. Changing a street name can really impact people.

Board Member Alvin Lau asked about renters and how to get the information about who actually lived on the streets in question.

Staff Member Tai discussed privacy laws and what information the staff could get access to. These would be questions for the City Attorney's Office.

Board Member Lau asked how long they would allow the public to make comments about a name change.

Staff Member Tai said the policy did not specify but they would want to give it a proper amount of time to take advantage of the ways to reach people. The staff did not want to rush this process.

Chair Saxby wanted to know how often this had come up.

Staff Member Tai said this was the first time it was addressed by the City Council. The city had never really had an open discussion about renaming streets and facilities.

Board Member Lynn Jones asked how citizens could access information on street names such as pronunciation and where names came from.

Staff Member Tai thought that was an interesting question. He believed that most street names were chosen by engineers. In more recent history there had been a more conscious effort of why certain names were chosen and city records would be a great place to look for more information.

Chair Saxby opened public comments.

Rasheed Shabazz, an Alameda resident, had worked to rename Haight School as well as Jackson Park. He discussed the social importance of being able to rename public areas as people become more aware of how White Supremacy had woven itself into our daily lives. He discussed his own background and gave a brief history of some of the problematic names in Alameda today.

Chair Saxby closed public comments and opened board discussions and comments.

Board Member Wit discussed the importance of having a list of people who citizens could contact when these issues come up.

Vice-Chair Sanchez hoped that Mr. Shabazz would be in contact with the Alameda Museum, Library, and AAPS so he could share his information. It would be a great way to start that record.

Chair Saxby agreed and added that the vetting situation would be the most difficult. However, it was more important to make things more equitable.

7-B 2021-1257

Board Elections

Board Member Sanchez nominated Chair Saxby for another term as Chair. Board Member Jones seconded the nomination. A vote was taken and the nomination passed 5-0.

Vice-Chair Sanchez nominated Board Member Jones for Vice-Chair and Board Member Wit seconded the nomination. Board Member Lau nominated Vice-Chair Sanchez for another term of Vice-Chair and Chair Saxby seconded the nomination. A vote was taken and Board Member Jones won the nomination 3-2.

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

None

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

9-A 2021-1258

Alameda Marina Update

Staff Member Tai gave the update.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Saxby adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.