

APPROVED MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY OF ALAMEDA HISTORICAL ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

1. CONVENE

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

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, codified at Government Code Section 54953, Historical Advisory Board members can attend the meeting via teleconference.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

3. MINUTES

3-A 2021-1453

Draft Meeting Minutes - September 2, 2021

Board Member Jenn Wit made a motion to approve the minutes as is and Board Member Norman Sanchez seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

4. AGENDA CHANGES AND DISCUSSION

None

5. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chris Buckley discussed a letter the Alameda Architecture Preservation Society (AAPS) had sent about their concerns about upzoning in historic neighborhoods in Alameda. The AAPS wanted to see this board more involved in the Housing Element.

Chair Saxby informed Mr. Buckley that the HAB would be reviewing the Housing Element at the December 2nd meeting.

6. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

7-A 2021-1454

2022 Meeting Calendar

The 2022 Calendar can be found at

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5197489&GUID=24B43C47-4AF9-40D1-B0F3-429549D26BD0>.

Board Member Sanchez made a motion to approve the 2022 Meeting Calendar and Board Member Alvin Lau seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a raise of hands and the motion passed 5-0.

7-B 2021-1455

Draft Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation Plan - Citywide - Applicant: City of Alameda. A Public Hearing to Review and Comment on the Draft Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation Plan. CEQA Determination: The proposed plan is not a project under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and Public Resources Code Section 21065. No further environmental review is needed.

Danielle Mieler, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, introduced the item and gave a presentation. The staff report and attachments can be found at

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5197490&GUID=0A457939-C676-418E-ABE1-E762F62F42AF&FullText=1>.

Chair Saxby opened the board clarifying questions.

Board Member Sanchez asked about different types of incentive programs for owners to retrofit their homes.

Staff Member Mieler discussed how some of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants could be used to support owners. She also discussed options for single-family and multi-family homes.

Chair Saxby asked about at-risk buildings in Alameda (masonry and concrete) and wanted to know if engineering studies had been done on them. He also wanted to know more about the denied grant for the North Shoreline adaption.

Staff Member Meiler discussed the complete inventory of buildings that had been seismically retrofitted. She explained the grant process from CalTrans, it was not something they typically fund. She discussed the different approaches Alameda was trying to enhance the shoreline.

Board Member Lau asked if there would be grant money or funds made available to retrofit older/historic buildings.

Staff Member Mieler clarified what the state grant would be for, it did not provide extra funds for historical buildings.

Board Member Sanchez asked about the groundwater issue in terms of retrofitting and wanted to know if they would be curbing that solution.

Staff Member Mieler said that was a good point and discussed what other cities had done. She discussed options for basements and added they needed to do more work on the groundwater issue.

Chair Saxby brought up the importance of undergrounding electrical wires in Alameda.

Board Member Wit asked about the clean-up after a fire or earthquake and wanted to know how those issues would be addressed.

Staff Member Mieler said hopefully with these retrofits there would be less debris to clean up. She then briefly discussed the plans in place as part of the Emergency Operations Plan.

Vice-Chair Lynn Jones wanted more clarification on the proper way to retrofit older homes, she wanted to know if there were resources available. She was concerned about the scope of impact to homeowners.

Staff Member Mieler discussed information and resources available such as Plan Site A, a guideline for retrofitting.

Chair Saxby pointed out that the city's website had information on retrofitting. Information can be found at <https://www.alamedaca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building-and-Transportation/Building-Division/Seismic-Retrofit>.

Chair Saxby opened Public Comments.

Chris Buckley asked about an earthquake-caused fire and had concerns if there was a backup plan if anything happened to Alameda's water supply.

Staff Member Mieler agreed that earthquake-caused fires were a major concern and another important reason to get homes retrofitted since homes knocked off their foundation could rupture gas lines. She then discussed Alameda's water tenders and what they had learned from studies on this type of scenario. Retrofitting homes and installing gas shut-off meters were important ways to help.

Chair Saxby closed Public Comment and opened board comments and discussion.

Board Member Wit wanted to know if the city should be doing more to help people retrofit their homes since this was in many ways a public safety concern.

Staff Member Mieler said she thought the city could do more and discussed local grants available for low-income households. She also discussed the importance of bringing awareness of this issue to homeowners.

Chair Saxby also believed that public outreach and education would be critical and that some very active work on behalf of the city was needed to make information available.

Board Member Sanchez also believed that community response would be important too.

Board Member Lau asked about the Alameda Cinema and if it had been retrofitted. He also asked about general public facilities.

Staff Member Mieler said it was not since there were no requirements to retrofit it. She then discussed what public facilities had been retrofitted.

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Saxby asked the staff about an update for the Preservation Ordinance.

Henry Dong, Planner III, gave an update on the status. The staff's attention had mainly been focused on the Housing Element and Zoning changes. The staff was also hoping to introduce the Mills Act to Alameda.

Board Member Wit also wanted updates on projects they had reviewed.

Staff Member Dong agreed that was something they could do at a future meeting.

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Member Dong said that at the December meeting they would go over the Housing Element.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Buckley discussed the Historic Study List and that it would be good to digitize those forms to make them more easily available to the public.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Saxby adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.