



# City of Santa Barbara

## BUILDING AND FIRE CODE BOARD OF APPEALS MINUTES MARCH 1, 2018

2:30 P.M.  
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden Street  
[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Paul Spieler, *Chair*  
Bonnie Elliot  
Ken McLellan  
John Maloney  
Eric N. Pedersen

### STAFF:

Elizabeth Sorgman, Senior Plans Examiner  
Larry Cassidy, Building Inspection Supervisor  
Greta Walters, Executive Assistant

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### ELECTION OF MEETING CHAIR

Motion: The board elected Paul Spieler to chair the meeting.  
Action: Pedersen/Elliot, 5/0/0. Motion carried.

### CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m. by Chair Paul Spieler.

### ATTENDANCE

Members present: Elliot, McLellan, Maloney, Pedersen, Spieler  
Members absent: None  
Staff present: Sorgman, Cassidy, and Walters

### GENERAL BUSINESS

#### A. Public Comment:

1. Chris Benedict, a wheelchair user raised near the park and Natural History Museum, urged the City to consider installing accessible sidewalks leading to Rocky Nook Park.

#### B. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes of the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals meeting of February 1, 2018, as submitted.  
Action: Pedersen/Elliot, 5/0/0. Motion carried.

NOTE: Agenda schedule is subject to change as cancellations occur.

- C. Announcements, requests by appellants for continuances and withdrawals, future agenda items, and appeals.

Chief Building Officer Andrew Stuffer was not in attendance, but, in advance of the meeting, he provided a memo from himself to the board regarding its scope and authority. He asked that if the Board wanted a 30-minute staff report from the City Attorney's office on the topic, they should make a motion and vote to add the item to the April 2018 agenda.

## **SUBJECT ITEMS**

### **1. Ratification of Hardship – 2559 Puesta del Sol**

*Description:* Path of Travel Exemption

Present: Luke Swetland, President and CEO, Natural History Museum  
Heidi Jones, Natural History Museum  
Barbara Barker, Project Manager  
Sheryl Collin, Architect  
Susan Elledge, Planning and Permitting Consultant  
Janis Kent, CASp, Stepping Thru Accessibility

Staff Presentation: Elizabeth Sorgman, Senior Plans Examiner, noted that the Natural History Museum has a phasing project in place to address and renovate the entry path, and that staff recommends ratification.

#### Public Comment:

1. Will Rehling of Accessible Santa Barbara stated that he cautiously yet optimistically supported the ratification, noting that the Board's support was critical in keeping the project alive.
2. James Marston, Chair of Access Advisability, asked when the campus would be fully completed. President and CEO Luke Swetland responded that the timing and scope of the next phase of master plan improvements will depend on the outlook for future fundraising; however, the museum will continue to make incremental improvements over time when possible.
3. Chris Benedict remarked that as a wheelchair user, he experienced issues crossing the street and accessing the butterfly pavilion and gift shop.
4. Nick Koonce was not present but asked that his previously emailed comments be shared with the Board.

The meeting was closed for public comment at 2:54 PM.

Motion: **Approval of the ratification of hardship for 2559 Puesta Del Sol.**

Action: Pedersen/Spieler, 5/5/0. Motion carried.

Member departure: Bonnie Elliot departed at 3:04 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Paul Spieler adjourned the meeting at 3:07 PM.