



City of Santa Barbara

LAND DEVELOPMENT TEAM OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2021

10:00 A.M.

This Meeting Will Be Conducted Electronically
As Described Below

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Eric Friedman, Chair
Alejandra Gutierrez, City Council
Mike Jordan, City Council

STAFF:

Rebecca Bjork, Interim Community Development
Director
Christina (Tina) Dye, Interim Building Official
Renee Brooke, City Planner
Greta Walters, Administrative Assistant

NOTE: These minutes provide a summary of the meeting of the Land Development Team (LDT) Oversight Subcommittee. An audio recording of the meeting in its entirety is available at <https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/cityhall/council/ldto/agendas.asp>.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eric Friedman called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Eric Friedman, Councilmember Alejandra Gutierrez, and Councilmember Mike Jordan

STAFF PRESENT

Rebecca Bjork, Interim Community Development Director
Renee Brooke, City Planner
Tina Dye, Interim Chief Building Official
Greta Walters, Administrative Assistant

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Announcements

- i. Interim Community Development Director Rebecca Bjork introduced Tina Dye, the City's Interim Chief Building Official.

B. Public Comment Pertaining to Items Not on this Agenda

- i. There were no comments from members of the public.

C. Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2020, Meeting

- i. **Motion: Alejandra Gutierrez/Mike Jordan**

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

III. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Update on Process Improvements

- i. Interim Community Development Director Rebecca Bjork opened the staff update, which included a review of the purpose and scope of the LDT Oversight Committee. Ms. Bjork noted that the LDT had finalized its vision statement.
- ii. Interim Chief Building Official Tina Dye provided an update on the City's recently launched on-demand permits (like-for-like roof replacement, water heater replacement, furnace replacement, electrical panels, and one- and two-unit residential solar photovoltaic and energy storage). Councilmember Jordan requested a handout describing the City's residential solar power application process and guidelines.
- iii. City Planner Renee Brooke provided an update on issuing written staff reports for design review board agenda items, and identified preliminary ideas to streamline the discretionary project review process. Ms. Brooke noted that the majority of the streamlining recommendations will require Council action before being implemented.
- iv. Staff responded to questions from the Subcommittee about limiting the scope of the design review boards/commission. Councilmember Jordan urged the Planning Division to group related process streamlining topics together and first address matters that will have the greatest beneficial impact for the customer.

B. Public Comment

Public comment opened at 10:46 AM. As no member of the public requested to speak, public comment closed.

C. Next Meeting Items: Direction from the Subcommittee

- i. Ms. Bjork noted that at the next meeting of this subcommittee, Ms. Dye will present her observations after reviewing and evaluating the Building and Safety Division's permit, plan check, and inspection review processes.
- ii. Ms. Bjork proposed to the Subcommittee members that this group meet bimonthly. The Councilmembers were in agreement that bimonthly meetings would be fine. Councilmember Jordan recommended that staff communications to the public explain that process improvements are moving forward and not slowing down, despite this subcommittee shifting to bimonthly meetings.
- iii. Councilmember Friedman stated that he would like additional information about limiting the number of hearings for projects and noted that any consideration about increasing building height restrictions should include extra public outreach.
- iv. Councilmember Jordan cautioned staff to ensure scope of reach on residential solar photovoltaic projects supports sustainability goals but also allows easy permitting and reasonable amounts of storage.
- v. Councilmember Friedman asked that staff update the Subcommittee about high-profile, process improvement-related matters going to Council during months the Subcommittee doesn't meet.

D. Next Meeting

1. February 24, 2021

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.