



City of Santa Barbara

PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

OCTOBER 19, 2017

1:00 P.M.
City Hall, Council Chambers
735 Anacapa Street
SantaBarbaraCA.gov

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Jay D. Higgins, *Chair*
Lesley Wiscomb, *Vice Chair*
John P. Campanella
Mike Jordan
Sheila Lodge
Deborah L. Schwartz
Addison Thompson

STAFF:

N. Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney
Allison DeBusk, Project Planner
Kathleen Goo, Commission Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Higgins called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Jay D. Higgins (until 3:13 p.m.), Vice Chair Lesley Wiscomb, Commissioners John P. Campanella, Mike Jordan, Sheila Lodge, Deborah L. Schwartz, and Addison Thompson

Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

N. Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney
Debra Andalaro, Principal Planner
Allison De Busk, Project Planner
Rosie Dyste, Project Planner
Timmy Bolton, Associate Planner
Kathleen Goo, Commission Secretary

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Requests for continuances, withdrawals, postponements, or addition of ex-agenda items:

No requests.

B. Announcements and appeals:

Chair Higgins announced that Jeanne Graffy, former City Council member, former 2nd District County Supervisor, and former eight-year Planning Commissioner, recently passed away. Commissioner Lodge praised Ms. Graffy and her outstanding career in public service for the City.

- C. Review, consideration, and action on the following draft Planning Commission minutes and resolutions:

MOTION: Higgins/Wiscomb

Review the September 7, 2017 minutes at the end of the hearing.

This motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 Noes: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 0

- D. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda:

No public comment.

III. DISCUSSION ITEM

ACTUAL TIME: 1:11 P.M.

2017 GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REPORT

Staff will present the 2017 General Plan Implementation and Adaptive Management Program Report in advance of the October 26, 2017 Joint City Council and Planning Commission Work Session.

Contact: Debra Andaloro, Principal Planner

Email: DAndaloro@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Phone: (805) 564-5470, ext. 2569

Debra Andaloro, Principal Planner, gave the Staff presentation. Rosie Dyste, Project Planner, and Timmy Bolton, Associate Planner, were available to answer questions.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Thompson:

- Found the report comprehensive.
- Questioned if the City Council's goal of 100% renewable energy in the City by 2030 is achievable.

Commissioner Jordan:

- Suggested pushing for change in a way that makes sustainability integrate into everyday life.
- Commented that if our current strategies to address sustainability are not effective, it is time for a change in strategy.
- Emphasized looking outside the usual, including intruding upon areas not historically intruded upon (e.g., MTD bus service), to examine if they are realizing a desirable result, or if we should demand more or look elsewhere.
- The sustainability topic should have a place in housing, land use, parking, etc., decisions, as they all interplay. Decisions on individual projects should benefit long range strategies.

- Long range strategy should play a larger role in the above decision-making processes if we want to see gains. Reporting is good, but we need to effect change, not just report on it.

Commissioner Schwartz:

- Praised the Long Range Planning staff for their impressive work.
- The General Plan is a set of aspirations and information from a moment in time. Society is changing rapidly, in science, technology, values, etc., so adaptability is important, as there is so much we cannot predict. The General Plan sets the goals, but needs to be flexible to adapt. We are headed in the right direction to live out the vision of the General Plan, and at the same time, to incorporate new knowledge and tools into strategic planning to provide for a healthy, balanced community.
- The large question for City Council is what kind of city do we want to be in the field of sustainability? Strategies need to flow from a current, clear vision of what we want to be in this evolving society.
- We are at a crossroads as a city, with our current tensions and needs, and perhaps not the environmental leader we once were in policy, practices, and reputation. This is important for Council to consider.
- Supports the priority work efforts. As so much has changed, we should take a fresh look at how to approach updating the Climate Action Plan and General Plan EIR, perhaps using outside expertise, like best practices from other municipalities and UCSB researchers, as examples.

Commissioner Campanella:

- Expressed appreciation for the work put into the report, complimented its readability, and stated it is mandatory reading for those interested in our community.
- Going forward, from a Planning Commission perspective, we need to be constantly reminded about the sustainability profile we are seeking when making land use decisions and recommendations.
- There needs to be a concerted effort to meet our sustainability goals, looking at a whole menu of options—for example, more paid parking or services located closer to jobs to reduce vehicle emissions.
- Recommended quantifying for decision-makers the benefit of increased housing in decreasing the number of commuters and vehicle miles traveled.
- Our reasons for making decisions need to be weighed against what we are trying to do for our environment. The more we can emphasize that to Planning Commission, City Council, and the public, the better. It is time to reinvigorate this thought process with increased visibility and authorization for more staff work.

Commissioner Lodge:

- Commented that we have hopes and aspirations we are trying to accomplish, yet we also need to be realistic.
- Ridership of MTD has dropped, and people are buying new cars in record numbers. We hope for the reverse, but have tried things that have not produced that result. We can set admirable goals, but in trying to achieve them, we need to not only consider what we hope people will do, but look at what they actually do.
- Stated that the City needs to complete the Historic Districts Ordinance, and should hire a consultant if necessary.

Commissioner Wiscomb:

- Thanked staff for a comprehensive, clearly laid out, thoughtful report.
- The sustainability indicators chosen for the report are the right ones, representing the issues we are facing in the City.
- Supported an update to the Climate Action Plan and more staff time dedicated to that effort to think outside the box in how to meet our goals.
- The state mandates for housing and the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets are lofty; we need to implement strategies that will continue to show progress.

Chair Higgins:

- Echoed compliments on the readability of the report and that it is mandatory reading for those interested in the City.
- Warned that in the context of other important things the City needs to address, this topic can be pushed down in priority. The Commission should keep this in mind at the Joint City Council/Planning Commission Work Session next week.

*** THE COMMISSION RECESSED FROM 3:13 TO 3:28 P.M. ***

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**ACTUAL TIME: 3:28 P.M.**

- A. Review, consideration, and action on the following draft Planning Commission minutes and resolutions:

1. September 7, 2017 Minutes

MOTION: Jordan/Lodge

Approve the minutes as amended.

This motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstained: 1 (Schwartz) Absent: 1 (Higgins)

Commissioner Schwartz stated that she abstained because she did not have time to review the minutes.

Commissioner Campanella requested that the approved minutes be forwarded to City Council prior to its October 24 meeting.

ACTUAL TIME: 3:48 P.M.

- B. Committee and Liaison Reports:

1. Staff Hearing Officer Liaison Report

Commissioner Jordan reported on the Staff Hearing Officer meeting of October 11, 2017 and the Water Commission meeting of October 19, 2017.

2. Other Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. Commissioner Schwartz reported on the Local Coastal Plan Subcommittee meeting of September 13, 2017 and stated that there would be an Open House on November 11, 2017.
- b. Commissioner Thompson reported on the Single Family Design Board meeting of October 16, 2017.
- c. Commissioners Campanella and Lodge reported on the Housing Task Force meeting of October 11, 2017.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Wiscomb adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kathleen Goo, Commission Secretary