

Advisory Council Meeting Summary

June 1, 2021, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Majeid Crawford, Norma Garcia, Mahsa Hakimi, Raquel Redondiez, Del Seymour, Mary Travis-Allen, Ben Wong, Malcolm Yeung

Council Members Absent: Tiffany Carter

Staff Present: Miriam Chion, Kimia Haddadan, Rich Hillis, Deborah Sanders

Facilitator: Majeid Crawford

Topic: This meeting was focused on how to define priorities and deliberations and a short briefing of the Housing Element in preparation for discussion at subsequent meeting.

1. Opening

Majeid provided a strong opening recognizing the challenging realities of communities of color, confronting White supremacy and the need for substantial work. Mahsa read the acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone Land. Miriam provided a summary of the May 18, 2021 meeting.

2. Defining Paths of Change

Overview

Key Priority Projects for Council deliberation and consideration:

- Housing Element (Jun/Oct): Housing American Indian, Black and other communities of color
- Recovery Strategies (Jul): Investing in key community priorities
- Equity Plan (Aug): Equity in land use decisions and investments
- Planning Budget (Sep): Resources to priority geographies
- Community Engagement (Nov): Expanding community voices and implementing equity strategies

Deliberation process

- Focus on priorities that lead to actual change
- Moving towards consensus, acknowledging differences
- Recognize priority of American Indian and Black communities, while creating a collective platform for communities of color

- Each meeting on priority projects will close with specific strategies/actions

Sharing advice with community and city leaders

- Staff to post summary of deliberation on webpage
- Council to share summaries with community networks
- Planning Director to brief Planning Commission and Supervisors
- Staff to integrate advice into policies and strategies proposals

Questions for Discussion by the Council:

- Can this structure lead to equity outcomes?
- Are council members supported for good deliberations?

Discussion summary

Housing is a priority: Housing is a pressing issue and needs attention. Addressing the Housing Element first makes sense because of the housing challenges. We should check the timelines of various projects and understand their interconnections.

Equity council to define the equity priorities: We need a better understanding of each of the five priorities and assess their value before agreeing to the schedule. We need to bring community voices in defining these priorities. We need to deliberate and decide the key priorities as well as how to approach each project. We need to assess the discussion of the Housing Element. Equity Council cannot be another check box used by City staff to get community credit. We do not want to follow the staff's agenda. We want to set the equity agenda. Staff needs to provide information, support for meetings, and coordination with other City agencies. Staff needs to provide more information on the priority projects.

Concerns about the Housing Element: Does this Housing Element have teeth? Is this another plan that has no impact on community resources or negatively impacts communities of color? How does the Housing Element of other General Plan Elements provide policy direction? Can we review models from other cities and their use of their housing plans for community equity? We cannot be supporting a plan that will displace our people. We have been underrepresented in many plans. We have seen other plans like SOMA with good ideas but without resources. We need to make sure that the Housing Element is a plan with metrics that keeps the City accountable for equity outcomes. We are concerned about the High Opportunity framing because it can lead to disinvestment in existing communities of color. We already see cities like San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland receiving only a small allocation of State funding..

Addressing diversity within the Planning Department: We need to discuss the representation of communities of color within the Planning Department. The lack of diversity at the top is a pattern across City agencies. We need to see how the Equity Plan can address this issue.

3. Housing Element Briefing

Overview of schedule, draft policies structure, and community engagement

Discussion: Concerns about the high opportunity framing. Additional session to review Housing Element content.

4. Next Steps

- Staff to send information on five priority projects and hard copies of Housing Element packet to council members
- Staff to schedule supplemental session to review Housing Element content
- Mary, Raquel, Oscar, Del & Malcolm will collaborate to develop agenda for next meeting
- Next meeting: June 15, 5:30-7pm