

Advisory Council Meeting Summary DRAFT

June 15, 2021, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Tiffany Carter, Majeid Crawford, Norma Garcia, Oscar Grande, Mahsa Hakimi, Lara Kiswani, Raquel Redondiez, Del Seymour (first part of the meeting), Mary Travis-Allen, Ben Wong (first part of the meeting), Malcolm Yeung

Council Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Tameeka Bennett, Miriam Chion, Kimia Haddadan, Eric Shaw (for Housing Element discussion)

Facilitator: Norma Garcia

Topic: This meeting was focused on discussion of priorities and discussion of Housing Element draft policies.

1. Opening

Norma invited people to introduce themselves by sharing their favorite place in San Francisco. She read the acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone Land, reviewed the common ground and the agenda.

2. Discussion of priorities for Equity Council

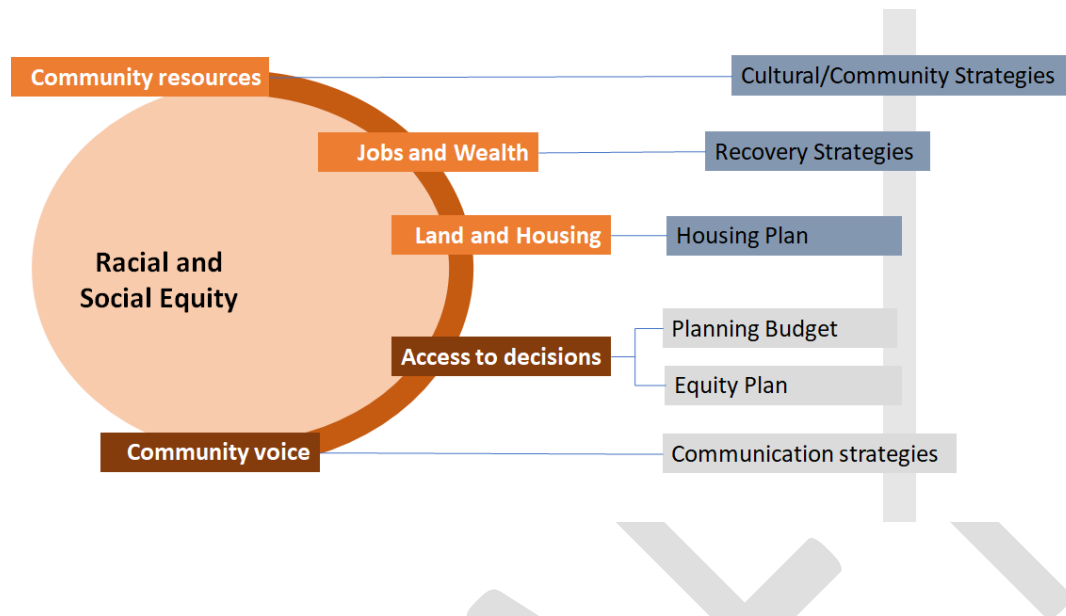
Overview

Miriam provided an overview of equity concerns and potential Planning and City projects as a framework of discussion to define the agenda for July and future Equity Council meetings.

Equity concerns: Based on the preliminary round of Equity Council consultations, first two Equity Council meetings, and additional individual input from Equity Council members over the past week, staff summarized equity concerns under the following three equity areas: access to land and housing, access to jobs and wealth, and support for community resources. In addition, Equity Council members have emphasized the need for institutional changes to bring community voices to local government and access to decision making.

Potential Planning and City Projects: Staff proposed three projects to address institutional changes, Communication Strategy, Equity Plan, and Planning Budget. Staff also proposed three major efforts with high potential for equity changes in policies, strategies, legislation and

investments, which include the Housing Element, Recovery Strategies, and Cultural and Community Strategies.



Questions:

- What are the core equity challenges?
- What are the Planning/City projects that can best address core equity challenges?
- What would be the agenda for July?

Discussion summary

Collective decisions that recognize differences among communities: The Equity Council needs to deliver collective decisions that address the needs of individual communities. We need to make space to recognize differences.

Community exhaustion: Our communities have been working very hard to make change. Our communities are confronting multiple requests to engage and in many cases it is just to check a box. Developers have the resources to sustain their engagement through the planning process. Our communities are investing much personal time, weeknights and weekends, and it is hard to sustain this work over a long period of time. Our communities have been explaining the same issues for many years to planners and other City agencies without substantial change. Planners and the City need to be educated, need to understand that this American Indian land was stolen. It is hard for community leaders to ask our people to participate when they don't see change or change is too small.

Community ownership: Planning and the City needs to move from community engagement to community ownership. The City needs to clarify who we are planning for and consider investing in community planners within our communities. We need to know that community recommendations are implemented. We need planning to move beyond supporting capital

investments and focus on our communities. Community knowledge needs to become working knowledge and practice.

Building bridges of collaboration: Community Equity planners could be effective partners addressing equity. What does a real collaboration look like? How do we really involve community? How do we defer to community when making decisions? How can we bring diversity within the Planning Department?

Changing racist land use policies in real time: It takes too long for land use policies to change and achieve equity. Many times city agencies blame the past for the inequities of today without acknowledging we are drafting and implementing racist policies today.

Political will for bold changes: The city has the resources, we need the will to address equity. This is the time for bold changes. This is the time for process and engagement leading with race and color. Housing can be streamlined in white neighborhoods and neighborhoods for people of color should be protected. Planning doesn't have to be bound by capital investments. Planning can respect, honor and engage our communities

Agenda for July: (1) Discussion of racial equity issues across the various communities. (2) Discussion of the Equity Plan to address the questions and concerns raised at this meeting.

3. Housing Element Discussion

Overview

Based on the input from Equity Council at the previous two meetings, Tameeka and Kimia provided an introduction to the discussion and presented three questions with some potential actions for discussion under each question.

1. What are concrete actions to reverse inequities?
 - a. Define share of investment in priority geographies for affordable housing, amenities, and infrastructure
 - b. Expand Rental Assistance
 - c. Bring back displaced communities through homeownership opportunities
 - d. Limit zoning changes to serve American Indian, Black, and other communities of color
2. How to guide location and type of future housing?
 - a. Direct more housing to areas with low rates of recent housing production and higher income
 - b. Lower concentration of new housing in priority geographies
 - c. Focus on small and medium size housing to serve low to middle-income communities of color
3. How can we frame our housing policies for communities of color?

- a. Priority tasks, priority communities, and priority geographies
- b. Access to housing and land for communities of color across all neighborhoods
- c. Investments in Priority Geographies

Discussion of Draft Housing Policies:

Support jobs and wealth in communities of color: Access to jobs and wealth are essential for our communities to secure appropriate housing. The City should support good jobs and access to homeownership for communities of color. Small family businesses in communities of color can support wealth building. PDR can provide good stable wages to support families of color. These jobs and businesses will support the return of families of color. City policies need to support space for those businesses and jobs. Good jobs and good wages for communities of color can allow access to housing. Access to homeownership in communities of color is also essential to increase stability and build wealth in those communities.

Make neighborhoods good places to live: The City should connect housing with services and cultural activities. Housing is about good places with appropriate transit, jobs and other services. Our communities of color bring cultural practices and traditions that are a valuable asset for our neighborhoods and for the city. Housing policies need to incorporate these cultural assets and services to support good places and address equity.

Change legislation to address racial justice: Now is the time to remove the legal barriers to racial equity. The City needs to give preference to communities of color to ensure displaced people and their families can return to the city. Housing preference for communities of color should also be expanded from homeownership to rental units. The City also needs to consider adaptive reuse of office buildings to affordable housing and light manufacturing.

Focus on retaining our housing in our neighborhoods: There is strength in staying where our communities of color have been able to live for a long time. The City needs to ensure the preservation of existing housing in our neighborhoods through acquisition and rehab, as a task that needs to be implemented in the short term.

Invest in communities of color and produce housing across all neighborhoods: The City needs to expand investments in communities of color and support housing production across all neighborhoods to reverse historic inequities. We are concerned the State's *High Opportunity Areas* definition can be a vehicle to shift resources away from communities of color. In this effort, we need to find a language that doesn't setup an oppositional relationship between communities across neighborhoods.

Define timing of investments: In the short-term, the City should revise policies to streamline production of housing in exclusive white neighborhoods or High Opportunity Areas without reducing investments for communities of color. The City should also be acquiring land for future affordable housing development across all neighborhoods. In the medium and long-term, the

City should focus on services and infrastructure to support communities of color and 100 percent affordable housing.

Move towards collective ownership: Housing strategies cannot solely focus on community benefits. We need to address community investments and collective ownership. We need strategies that allow our communities to invest in our neighborhoods, in our businesses and organizations.

Clarify equity, priorities and opportunities concepts: We must ensure that concepts are clear and precise. The City needs to communicate clearly to our communities. We need to ensure that the overall message is clear and that we target specific strategies.

4. Next Steps

- Equity Plan study session - Second week of July
- Next meeting: July 20 15, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm