

Community Equity Council Meeting Summary

Date: September 24, 2024

Attendees: Will Cartagena, Del Seymoore, Mahsa Hakim, Mary Travis Allen, Ben Wong, Majeid Crawford, Anni Chung, Tiffany Carter

Staff: Miriam Chion, Rich Hillis, Aurion Wiley, David Garcia, James Pappas, and Oscar Grande

1. Opening

The meeting commenced with a welcome and an overview of the agenda, followed by a land acknowledgment. A team-building activity titled “Year of the Coin” was also conducted.

2. Recent Changes at HRC

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) has played a significant role in Planning’s equity efforts, particularly in establishing the Equity Council and coordinating with MOHCD on the Housing Element. HRC has also been a strong supporter of the American Indian community and the Latino Task Force. However, funding challenges have led to non-profits not receiving their allocations, creating frustration for Black organizations. Councilmembers emphasized the need for community organizations to be cautious and ensure compliance with processes to avoid scrutiny.

3. Housing Initiatives and Education Tools

The group discussed an educational document detailing the affordable housing pipeline, the definition of affordable housing, and a map of ongoing projects. They explored the possibility of building housing in the Presidio, though it remains a federal area. There was also a discussion about the high cost of housing production and the discrepancy between modular building costs and traditional construction. Councilmembers stressed the importance of releasing the housing document in a way that manages expectations without over-promising, and it was agreed that this tool could be used for community outreach.

4. OCII Displaced Persons and Certificates of Preference (COP)

The meeting covered displacement records and the ongoing outreach efforts. Majeid’s organization has been contracted to lead outreach in the Western Addition (A2). Despite initial low engagement, the organization has now contacted 30% of the 5,800 identified households. It was noted that the Filipino community is organized, but many residents were unaware of records related to the Yerba Buena area. The group discussed the complexities of qualifying for a COP and shared an example of how difficult it can be to locate the necessary records. Next steps include determining how many people with a COP have secured housing.

5. Federal Pro Housing Grant

Planning is applying for a \$7 million Pro Housing Grant, which will support process improvements, affordable housing production in high-opportunity areas, and the rehabilitation of buildings, including SROs. This is an effort to prepare Planning for future affordable housing funding. The draft proposal will be shared with the Equity Council for review. A recommendation was made to include a construction apprenticeship program for Black workers in the proposal.

6. Working Group Updates

Wealth and Jobs: Focused on economic development strategies for commercial corridors, workforce development, and entrepreneurship. The group aims to create conditions conducive to business success and deepen outcomes for corridor investments.

Community Visibility: Working on improvements to the Equity Council's webpage. A draft will be shared at the October meeting, and council members are encouraged to review their bios before then.

7. Updates and Announcements

Planning Updates

A recent paper on public policy highlighted the imbalance of representation at Planning Commission hearings, with older white residents being more likely to participate. The council discussed the need to educate communities on how Planning decisions impact them and suggested hosting hearings in community spaces. Additionally, Planning is finalizing the Equity Plan, and significant projects like a 175-unit senior housing development in Chinatown are underway. The department also welcomed two new Planning Commissioners, Amy Campbell and Sean McGarry.

Community Events

Upcoming community events include:

- Sunset Night Market on September 27
- Constitutional Conversations at the War Memorial on September 27
- Latinx PTA Celebration at Rooftop Elementary on September 27
- Palmvy, a food business, is now open at the Ferry Building (Tuesday-Saturday)

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with reminders about upcoming events and the next steps for the Equity Council.