



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/6/2023
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
Arrillaga Recreation Center, Oak Room
700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair Onap called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Leitch, Pimentel, Onap, Walker
Absent: Campos, Merriman, Portillo
Staff: Housing Manager Tim Wong, Management Analyst Adam Patterson

C. Public Comment

- Lynne Bramlett spoke in support of post-disaster displacement preparedness.

D. Presentations and Proclamations

D1. Presentation: Menlo Park Below Market Rate housing administrator presentation (Attachment)

HousingINC's Principal, Robyn van Ekelenburg, and Owner/Director, Teresa Martinez Gonzales, made the presentation.

- Jenny Michel spoke on concerns related to housing affordability and tenant protections.
- Pam Jones spoke on concerns related to HousingINC's management of the below market rate (BMR) rental program, ongoing financial counseling for low-income residents, and the consideration of technological barriers in the BMR application process.

The Commission received clarification on HousingINC's plan for onboarding and the BMR tenant recertification process.

E. Regular Business

E1. Review and recommend to City Council approval of the 2023-2024 Housing Commission work plan (Staff Report #23-006-HC)

Housing Manager Tim Wong introduced the item.

- Pam Jones spoke in support of anti-displacement programs and activities.
- Lynne Bramlett spoke in support of strategies to get Menlo Park's Housing Element Update approved and working to secure more grant funding for housing activities.

The Commission discussed revisions to the work plan including anti-displacement strategies and community outreach.

The Commission received clarification on the process for approving the work plan with updates, current and planned anti-displacement programs and assisting with the development of housing on public lands (e.g., downtown parking lots).

ACTION: Motion and second (Walker/ Pimentel), to recommend to City Council approval of the 2023-2024 Housing Commission work plan with the condition that anti-displacement be added as a third work plan goal and greater specificity be added to the existing work plan goal of focusing on the development of housing on public lands, passed 4-0 (Campos, Merriman, Portillo absent).

F. Reports and Announcements

F1. Commissioner updates

Vice Chair Walker provided updates on Samaritan House activities in Menlo Park.

F2. Future agenda items

The Commission requested a status update on the development of the downtown parking lots.

F3. Staff updates and announcements

Staff provided an update on the next meeting's agenda items.

G. Adjournment

Chair Onap adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Adam Patterson, Management Analyst II