



Senior Citizen Commission
Meeting Notes for Housing Element Discussion
Thursday, May 13, 2021
2:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Elizabeth Lasensky (Chair) Tom Garberson, Janet Regnell, Lisa Miller, Caitriona Moloney, Jeremy Higgins, Leilani Buddenhagen (Alternate)

Council Liaison Present: Dan Carson

Staff Present: Maria Lucchesi, Community Services Supervisor

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 2:31pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Regnell, seconded by Higgins and approved.

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

4. Public Comment

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2021

6. Regular Items

A. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Discussion continued (CAAP).

B. Housing Element Draft

Commissioners discussed Housing Element and recommendations. Commissioner Moloney shared notes included in the packet.

Commissioner Moloney: Unhappy to see seniors lumped in with other populations. I'd like to see seniors have more of a presence maybe more on Bretton Woods.

Commissioner Garberson: Promote senior specific housing developments.

Commissioner Higgins: More specific housing designed for seniors that could also benefit those with disabilities. Would like to see a separate category just for senior designed housing based on studies of what seniors needs are - with access to healthcare, transportation.

Commissioner Regnell : Cannery had some design features (livable design).

Commissioner Moloney: Represent seniors of all income levels.

Commissioner Higgins moved the following motion: (Senior Commission requests) that the Housing Element Plan promote the design of housing specific to the needs of seniors.

Moloney seconded. Approved unanimously.

AYES: Lasensky, Miller, Regnell, Garberson, Buddenhagen, Higgins, Moloney

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Commissioner Garberson: Over the several years that I've been on the Commission a very hot topic has been shortage of affordable senior housing which has led to very active public comment at times. Waitlists with hundreds of people long; clearly significant shortage of senior affordable housing for a community with professors and others who have built their lives here retiring without the financial ability to continue living here after they retire. General encouragement to evaluate consider and incorporate the needs of seniors for affordable housing in the community.

Commissioner Lasensky: Affordable senior housing is a huge issue, there is an extreme shortage.

Commissioner Miller: I agree (with shortage of affordable senior housing) We should think about that as well because I don't know what incentives are in place. Particularly with onsite management; huge especially if you don't have mobility; a contact person on site.

Commissioner Lasensky: Also lack of centralized place to apply for affordable housing.

Commissioner Moloney: Making contact with property managers is difficult. Now worse that property managers are not meeting people indoors. Harder to get a hold of with Covid. It is extremely difficult to apply for housing.

Commissioner Garberson: for the application issue, we'd like to see the city promote ease of access for seniors looking for affordable housing through coordinating or creating some sort of centralized application system.

Commissioner Garberson moved the following motion: The Senior Commission also encourages the city to incorporate consideration for the high need for affordable senior housing and for a centralized application to improve access to that affordable senior housing to be developed and implemented by the City. Also, consideration for the needs for services (such as social service coordinator)

Moloney seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

AYES: Lasensky, Miller, Regnell, Garberson, Buddenhagen, Higgins, Moloney

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

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