

LAND USE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Pursuant to Exhibit F of the Governor’s Seventeenth Proclamation Related to the COVID-19 Emergency, the Commission conducted its meeting using interactive conference technology.

PLACE: Zoom Webinar Virtual Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Meeting Link for Thursday, January 28, 2021

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zvOzFBEHT52WQqI23NVGMA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held remotely with Commission members, Staff and Applicants participating via an online meeting venue. The public could participate in the meeting via the “ZOOM” platform. Interested persons were also advised to submit written testimony no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting to allow for distribution to Commission members prior to the meeting and to register to testify during the ZOOM meeting using instructions circulated on the meeting agenda.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

(Attending via ZOOM conference media) Gary Okuda
Jonathan Scheuer
Arnold Wong
Dawn N. S. Chang
Lee Ohigashi
Dan Giovanni
Nancy Cabral
Edmund Aczon (arrived at 9:03)

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

(8 seated Commissioners as of 10/1/19) None

STAFF PRESENT:

(Attending via ZOOM conference media) Daniel Orodenker, Executive Officer
Julie China, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Scott Derrickson, Staff Planner
Riley Hakoda, Staff Planner/Chief Clerk
Natasha A. Quiñones, Program Specialist

COURT REPORTER:

(Attending via ZOOM conference media) Jean McManus

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scheuer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All Commissioners acknowledged their presence and that they were able to communicate via the ZOOM program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Scheuer stated that the first agenda item was the approval of the December 30, 2020 minutes and asked if there had been any public testimony submitted and or corrections to be made. There was no public testimony or corrections to be made. Commissioner Nancy Cabral moved to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Lee Ohigashi seconded the motion. There was no discussion. By a voice vote and show of hands, the December 30, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously (8-0).

Chair Scheuer stated that the second agenda item was the approval of the January 6, 2021 minutes and asked if there had been any public testimony submitted or corrections to be made. There was no public testimony and no corrections to be made. Commissioner Nancy Cabral moved to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Lee Ohigashi seconded the motion. There was no discussion. By a voice vote and show of hands, the January 6, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously (8-0).

Chair Scheuer called for Mr. Orodener to provide the Tentative Meeting Schedule.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Executive Officer Orodener provided the tentative meeting schedule from February to June 2021 for the Commissioners and cautioned that it was subject to change based on the pandemic impacts. Commissioners were advised to contact LUC staff if there were any questions or conflicts. There were no questions or comments regarding the tentative meeting schedule.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS IMPACTING THE LUC

Chair Scheuer shared that the DAG had previously informed him that only legislative updates were to be discussed in this meeting.

Chair Scheuer asked staff if there was any written testimony regarding this matter. No testimony was received by the office.

Chair Scheuer called on Mr. Orodener to advise the Commission on what to expect during the 2021 legislative session.

Mr. Orodenker provided the Commission with the current list of bills that were primarily in the areas of the budget and formalizing virtual meeting capabilities that he felt would impact the LUC.

Mr. Orodenker also commented on several bills seeking to re-organize some State departments and programs for better efficiencies.

Chair Scheuer summarized the bill categories to be discussed and opened the floor for questions and comments.

COMMISSIONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Commissioners Cabral, Ohigashi, Okuda, Giovanni, Wong, Aczon and Chair Scheuer provided their perspectives on the pending legislative matters regarding virtual meetings, Office of Planning (OP) / LUC reorganization and how the LUC will be represented at the legislature for this session.

DAG China shared the “Sunshine Law” concerns that she thought the LUC needed to be aware of when discussing legislative matters and conducting its meetings. She explained that the LUC could still create a Permitted Interaction Group (“PIG”) and provided her perspective on how they could be utilized.

Discussion ensued to clarify what specific meeting limitations needed to be observed and how the LUC could respond quickly to the rapid changes that occur during the Legislative Session.

Commissioners Giovanni, Aczon, Wong and Chair Scheuer sought further clarification from DAG China on allowable LUC communications between Commissioners and staff and what authority limits LUC staff has.

Chair Scheuer shared a personal conversation he had with House Finance Chair Sylvia Luke concerning the possible reorganization of the LUC under OP.

Chair Scheuer directed LUC staff to agendize the subject of the LUC’s representation by the Attorney General’s Office for a future meeting. Mr. Orodenker acknowledged that staff would comply with that request.

Commissioner Okuda opined on how the LUC could positively contribute towards the State’s future.

Chair Scheuer asked the Commissioners if there were any further comments or questions on the legislative agenda item. There were none.

Mr. Orodener suggested that the Commissioners could testify at the Legislature as individuals and described how valuable their testimony could be.

Chair Scheuer asked if there was any further business for the Commission to address. There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.