



Planning Commission

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE JSISHL
(JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE HOUSING LAWS)**

July 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Location: N/A (This meeting was conducted exclusively through videoconference and teleconference)

Commissioners Present: Teresa Clarke, Dohee Kim, Thomas Lord, Shoshana O’Keefe, Igor Tregub, Alfred Twu, Jeff Vincent, Marian Wolfe (left at 9:29), Rob Wrenn

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Alene Pearson, Nilu Karimzadegan, Anne Burns and Desiree Dougherty

ORDER OF AGENDA: No Change

CONSENT CALENDAR: N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT: 1 speaker

PLANNING STAFF REPORT: Staff announced that three supplemental communications were sent out via email prior to the meeting and are posted on the online agenda. Communications received “At the Meeting” will be posted by the end of Friday.

COMMUNICATIONS IN PACKET:

- Email from Cantor Lois on 10/24/19 re: BART apartments
- Email from Vicki Sommer on 10/24/19 re: Objective Standards for Sunlight Detriment
- Email from Alene Pearson on 11/15/19 to JSISHL re: JSISHL October follow up and December supplemental material request
- Letter from Toni Mester on 12/2/19 re: density and solar recommendation
- Letter from David Ushijima on 12/2/19 re: Objective Standards for Shadow and Sunlight
- Email from Commissioner Wolfe on 12/2/19 re: JSISHL October follow up and December supplemental material request

COMMISSIONER ATTACHMENTS IN PACKET:

- Email from Alene Pearson to JSISHL on June 26, 2020 re: JSISHL Meeting scheduled for July 22
- Email from Alene Pearson to JSISHL on May 15, 2020 re: JSISHL Meeting via Zoom

- Email from Timothy Burroughs, Planning Director on April 23, 2020 re: Update on status of board and commission meetings
- Email from Commissioner Lord on April 13, 2020 re: “The Constitution.....”
- Email from Commissioner Lord on March 30, 2020 re: Objectifying and Modernizing Study Standards
- Email from Commissioner Kim on March 30, 2020 re: Follow Up to February 26 JSISHL Meeting
- Email from Commissioner Wolfe on March 28, 2020 re: Follow Up to February 26 JSISHL Meeting
- Email from Commissioner Wright on March 12, 2020 re: Follow Up to February 26 JSISHL Meeting
- Email from Alene Pearson to JSISHL on March 6, 2020 re: Follow Up to February 26 JSISHL Meeting

LATE COMMUNICATIONS (Received after the Packet deadline):

- Supplemental Communication 1
- Supplemental Communication 2
- Supplemental Communication 3

LATE COMMUNICATIONS (Received and distributed at the meeting):

- Supplemental Communication 4

CHAIR REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORT: None

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion/Second/Carried (Wolfe/Clarke) to approve the JSISHL Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2020. Ayes: Clarke, Kim, Lord, Tregub, Vincent, Wolfe, Wrenn. Noes: None. Abstain: O’Keefe, Twu. Absent: None (7-0-2-0)

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND OTHER PLANNING-RELATED EVENTS: None

AGENDA ITEMS

9. Action: Objective Standards for Density

PUBLIC COMMENT: 4 speakers

Primary Motion/Second/No Action Taken (O’Keefe/Wrenn) to recommend that the City Council refer to staff and Planning Commission development of a dwelling units per acre standard in all commercial districts and in the MULI and MUR districts with consideration of a cap on average number of bedrooms. Take into consideration size of parcel and develop an average bedroom/unit (to be determined) for multi-unit buildings. Develop Floor Area Ratios (FARs) for residentially zoned (“R” prefix) districts such as R-2, R-2A, and R-3, to help clarify and make more objective what is permitted in these districts.

Substitute Motion/Second/Carried (Kim/Clarke) to recommend using FAR as a density standard with a secondary form-based approach in Residential and Commercial districts. Ayes: Clarke, Kim, Wolfe, Twu, Vincent. Noes: Lord, O’Keefe, Tregub, Wrenn. Abstain: None
Absent: None
(5-4-0-0)

10. Action: Objective Standards for Design

PUBLIC COMMENT: 1 speakers

Primary Motion/Second/Carried (Wolfe/Clarke) to recommend to City Council the proposed design standards be reviewed and further developed by the Design Review Committee and Planning Commission. These standards were included in JSISHL’s July 22, 2020 packet. Ayes: Clarke, Kim, O’Keefe, Tregub, Vincent, Wolfe, Wrenn. Noes: None. Abstain: Lord, Twu.
Absent: None
(7-0-2-0)

Substitute Motion/Second/Not Carried (Twu/O’Keefe) to recommend to City Council the proposed design standards -- minus the first four design standards (massing, material, rooflines, facades) -- be reviewed and further developed by the Design Review Committee and Planning Commission. These standards were included in JSISHL’s July 22, 2020 packet. Ayes: O’Keefe, Twu. Noes: Clarke, Kim, Lord, Tregub, Vincent, Wolfe, Wrenn. Abstain: None.
Absent: None
(2-7-0-0)

11. Action: Objective Standards for Shadows

PUBLIC COMMENT: 2 speakers

Motion/Second/Not Carried (Wrenn/Tregub) to recommend to City Council the following:

In developing draft objective standards, staff should start with existing daylight plane standards, including the standards for San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito, and with the City’s own standard in effect for University Avenue.

Shadowing standards would only apply if the proposed project was asking for a Use Permit, AUP, waiver or density bonus to exceed the “base” residential and commercial zoning district development standards that are in effect as of 7/1/20.

Where there is a lot coverage limit, adjustments to the location and orientation of the massing can be required in order to minimize shadowing impacts.

In the development of shadowing standards, impacts on light and air and existing windows and door openings of the applicable adjacent buildings will be taken into consideration.

JSISHL should recommend that the City Council direct staff to go forward with drafting of an objective standard to protect existing rooftop solar panels from shadowing by new development on adjacent and nearby parcels.

JSISHL should recommend that the City Council direct staff to go forward with drafting objective shadowing standards to limit shadowing of residential buildings by new development on adjacent or nearby parcels.

Standards should apply in residentially zoned (“R” prefix) districts and to properties in commercially zoned (“C” prefix) districts that are adjacent to residential properties, where new development could cause shadowing impacts on residential properties. Staff could present to Council a range of options with draft language for each.

JSISHL should recommend that the City Council direct staff to work on standards to protect open, currently unshadowed areas of public parks, and open currently unshadowed areas of school grounds that are used for student recreation.

Ayes: O’Keefe, Tregub, Vincent, Wrenn. Noes: Lord, Abstain: Clarke, Kim, Twu. Absent: Wolfe (4-1-3-1)

Motion/Second/Carried (Clarke/Vincent) to recommend to City Council the following proposed shadow standards be reviewed and further developed by the staff and Planning Commission.

1. Applicability of Shadow Impacts:

- a. Shadow impacts would not be considered when a proposed new building or new construction meets all base development standards.
- b. Shadow impacts on an adjacent property would only be considered when a side or rear yard setback reduction or an increase in height is requested by use permit or by state density bonus over the allowable standard. Shadow impacts for Front or Street yard setback reductions would not be included or considered.
- c. The shadow impact would only be calculated on the increase in shadow caused by the additional height or reduced setback portion of the project, not the cumulative.
- d. Adjustments would seek to limit reductions in overall building envelope and could compensate with increases in height in another portion of the building, or reduced setback in another portion of the site, or some other mutually agreed adjustment to a development standard or mitigation. Adjustments may require, if no other solution can be proposed to mitigate the impact, a reduction in the overall total building envelope proposed. However, for state density bonus projects, adjustments to a proposed new residential construction shall not require a reduction in the overall total building envelope, habitable area, or cause the number of bedrooms or units to be reduced.
- e. If the adjacent building being affected has a reduced building setback on the adjacent side or rear yard, a light and air impact would not be applicable, except in those cases where the building has a historic designation or was built prior to the implementation of the zoning code.

2. Elements of consideration for Shadow Impact:

- a. Light & Air for Building Openings of Applicable adjacent buildings: The light and air shadow impact shall consider impact to light and air access only of the existing windows and door openings of the applicable adjacent buildings. The new construction would be required to adjust its setback such that a minimum 3 foot perpendicular distance was achieved and a 6 foot width, with minimum 1 foot on either side of the window or door for 2 stories (min. 6 foot for courts with openings on both sides) and 1 foot additional setback for each additional story up to 14 stories, or a total maximum setback of 15 feet from the adjacent building. For instance if the building is 3 feet away from the property line, a 12 foot maximum from the property line for the new building.
- b. Minimum Required Open Space of Adjacent properties: An increase in shadow impact caused by the additional height or reduced setback on the minimum required open space of the adjacent impacted property shall not be more than a 50% increase in direct shade averaged over the entire year. If the affected property has more than the required open space, the calculation would be made on the open space that is least impacted by the shadow. The setback or height shall be adjusted to result in a net shadow increase of no more than 50% (or suggest alternate per staff research) as limited in Section 1 above. The shadow impact would only be calculated on the increase in shadow caused by the additional height or reduced setback portion of the project, not the cumulative.
- c. Solar Access: An increase for the additional impact only of more than 50% of direct shading on existing solar panels averaged over the entire year and over the entire area of solar array would require that an adjustment to the requested height or setback be made, or other mutually agreed adjustment to a development standard or mitigation be made. If a mitigation such as moving the solar panels or re-orienting the solar panels has been mutually agreed upon in lieu of a development standard adjustment, this mitigation should be completed prior to building permit issuance, if possible.

The shadow impact would only be calculated on the increase in shadow caused by the additional height or reduced setback portion of the project, not the cumulative.

Ayes: Clarke, Kim, O’Keefe, Twu, Vincent. Noes: Lord, Wrenn. Abstain: Tregub. Absent: Wolfe. (5-2-1-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 11: 01 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance: 9 of 9

Members in the public in attendance: 7

Public Speakers: 7

Length of the meeting: 2 hours and 59 minutes

APPROVED:

Alene Pearson

Secretary to the JSISHL

DRAFT