



MINUTES
Ad Hoc LADBS Policies Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 4 PM-5 PM

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Stella Grey, Committee Chair, called meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
10 Present: Robin Greenberg, Stephanie Savage, Bobby Kwan, Maureen Levinson, Bob Schlesinger, Barbara Dawson, Gail Sroloff; Shawn Bayliss; Nickie Miner

2 Absent: Michael Schweitzer, Leslie Weisberg
2. **Motion:** Approve proposed April 7, 2021 Ad Hoc LADBS Policies Committee meeting Agenda.
Moved by Barbara Dawson; **seconded** by Bob Schlesinger; **9/0/0 passed** (Maureen did not vote due to log in problems)
3. **Motion:** Approve March 4, 2021 Ad Hoc LADBS Policies Committee meeting minutes.
Moved by Stephanie Savage; **seconded** by Maureen Levinson; **10/0/0 passed**.
4. **General Public Comments**
None.
5. **Discussion:**
 - Shawn: Suggested the following contacts as potential consultants: Frank Bush (so far unavailable); Larry Goldstein (inspection side, former assistant manager); Tod Borzi (inspection side, currently a planning commissioner in Whittier); Ifa Kashefi (currently with KM Engineering and Consulting Group); Ara Sargsyan (currently a building official at City of Santa Monica)
 - Maureen: Larry Goldstein has a good reputation.
 - Bob: Seconded Maureen.
 - Shawn: Will contact Larry Goldstein, Todd Borzi and Ara Sargsyan.
 - Stephanie: Reported a discussion with Brian Hauff re permit expiration. Planning entitlements are valid for 6 years. LADBS has 20 days to review CSRs. 2015-2016 permits without entitlements shall be expired.
 - Stella: Suggested to create a manual on reporting various LADBS related issues
 - Bob: Mentioned that he is working on the planning manual for NC based on the Mulholland Design Review Board manual.
 - Stella: Suggested that it is done under the auspices of PLU but our committee will add to it.
 - Linda: Suggested that in lieu of Mulholland Design Board manual Bob use data from the Wild Life Pilot study.
 - Maureen, Stephanie, Stella, Shawn, Linda, Bobby, Nickie: Discussion of the moratorium on permit expiration as it relates to Safer at Home orders. All agreed that the pandemic should not be used as

an excuse and that in order to be exempt from the current rules one shall prove financial hardship incurred by COVID.

- **Motion:** Compose a letter addressed to LADBS, Mayor's and the City Attorney's office requesting to lift a moratorium on permit expiration and to require a proof of hardship due to COVID to be eligible for any exemption. **Moved** by Maureen Levinson; **seconded** by Nickie Miner; **10/0/0 passed**.
- Stella: Suggested that the Committee formally defines its goals

6. In addition to the agenda topic,

Shawn highlighted how LADBS determines front yard setback (LAMC 12.21.C.10.e) for properties facing streets that meet a 36 ft dedication requirement (standard street) but with improvement less than 28 ft (hillside substandard). If such property cannot establish a prevailing set back, LADBS automatically allows it to be 5 ft. This loophole needs to be closed. There is a chance that the City will issue a clarification of this code section in response to appeals that Bel Air may be filing. Shawn mentioned that a formal appeal process to contest erroneous CPR (continuous paved roadway) on Hillside Referral forms does not exist. Stella to find out if the appeal process exists. Stephanie recommended to contact Carl Mills and Wesley Tanigiri at BOE. No motion today. Shawn suggested to wait with revisions related to setbacks until Bel Air resolves their cases but to investigate whether the appeal process exists for street width.

Bob brought up remedial grading performed before a project applies for plan check. It is often abused and results in altered topography and larger RFA, as well as illegal removal of trees.

7. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 4 PM