



ACCESS APPEALS COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting Wednesday, October 27, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. William Scott Ellsworth, President
Mr. Kevin Birmingham, Vice President
Mr. Arnie Lerner, Commissioner, FAIA, CASp
Ms. Alyce Brown, Commissioner

CITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Thomas Fessler, Secretary
Austin Yang, Deputy City Attorney

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: (DISCUSSION)

There was no public comment.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS; PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT (ACTION)

4. TERMS OF EXISTING ACCESS APPEAL COMMISSIONER (DISCUSSION)

Commissioner Birmingham was elected President and Commissioner Brown Vice President of the Access Appeals Commission.

The Secretary stated that the terms of Commissioner's Park and Brown will end November 1, 2021 and the rest of the commissioners on November 1, 2022 and if they want to continue serving on the commission they should contact the Building Inspection Commission secretary Sonya Harris.

Commissioner Brown requested that the meeting have closed captioning. Staff will look into providing that feature at future meetings.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Minutes from the August 12, 2020 meeting were adopted with minor corrections.

6. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION ITEMS: (DISCUSSION)

The secretary updated the commission that roughly half of the number of addresses subject to the Accessible Business Entrance (ABE) program have responded and are in

various stages of compliance. The compliance deadlines have been extended out roughly two years.

The commission questioned why the compliance numbers have not changed much over the past few years. The secretary explained that during the past few years the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the ability of the building department to issue permits and for the public to survey entrances.

With the extension compliance deadlines, the Building Department is going to begin a new outreach effort regarding compliance with the ABE program with possible code enforcement for missing compliance dates.

Permit for installing electric vehicle charging stations at Stonestown Mall has been issued and the work completed, which the commission granted an unreasonable hardship at its last meeting.

7. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE #51-16 ACCESSIBLE BUSINESS ENTRANCE PROGRAM (DISCUSSION)

The compliance unit is made up of representatives from various departments which have jurisdiction over compliance with ABE program, mainly Public Works, Planning Department, and Building Department. The compliance unit was created to help permit applicants navigate the permit process when receiving conflicting direction regarding ABE compliance.

8. COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (DISCUSSION)

Commissioner Ellsworth questioned if all the future meetings will be held on WEBEX. The secretary responded that the Department of Public Health would be responsible for how future public meetings are held.

9. ADJOURNMENT: (ACTION)

The meeting was adjourned.

Thank you

Thomas Fessler
Senior Building Inspector
Department of Building Inspection
Secretary to the Access Appeals Commission