

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

7:00 PM - Monday, August 14, 2023

Via Video Conference and In Person

PLEASE NOTE: The Environmental Commission will meet in person as well as via Telephone/ Video Conference.

TO PARTICIPATE IN PERSON: Members of the public may also participate in person by being present at the Los Altos Council Chamber at Los Altos City Hall located at 1 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA.

TO PARTICIPATE VIA VIDEO/TELEPHONE: Members of the Public may call (669) 444-9171 (Meeting ID: 812 1298 5629, Passcode: 972355), or use this link:

<https://losaltosca-gov.zoom.us/j/81212985629?pwd=MUIvTjlGTHR1STF3dUIWK2tYbFJtQT09>

TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS: Members of the Public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Prior to the meeting, comments on matters listed on the agenda may be emailed to . Please include a subject line in the following format:

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM ## - MEETING DATE

Correspondence submitted in hard copy/paper must be received by 2:00 P.M. on the day of the meeting to ensure distribution prior to the meeting. Correspondence received prior to the meeting will be included in the public record.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Staff Liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. Please be advised that, by law, the Commission is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period. According to State Law (also known as "the Brown Act") items must first be noticed on the agenda before any discussion or action.

CITY STAFF UPDATES

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Environmental Commission Minutes

Approve minutes of the regular meeting of June 12, 2023.

2. Tree Protection Ordinance Update

Discuss and provide a statement of support for Tree Protection Ordinance recommendations.

3. MWENDO

Discuss staff's recommendation and Environmental Commissions' position on MWENDO.

4. Commission Workplan

Discuss updated workplan and the Commissions' position on moving forward to City Council.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**5. Commission and Handbook Updates**

Receive updates on City Council changes to City Commissions and Commission Handbook.

6. Other City Updates

Receive information from City Staff on other relevant programs.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

1. Updates from Council Meetings
2. City Council Assignments (9/12, 9/26)

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. SVCE Tariff On-Bill Program
2. Presentation from Bidgely, Inc.

ADJOURNMENT**SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Agendas, Staff Reports, and some associated documents for the Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the interment at https://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings?field_microsite_tid_1=2261.

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For further questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. IN
PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair Delagneau, Vice Chair Hecht (Virtual Attendance), Commissioner
Tekslar, Commissioner van Reis, Commissioner Weiden, Commissioner
Humayun

ABSENT: Commissioner Lu

ATTENDEES: Tania Katbi (Sustainability Coordinator)
Casey Leedom (Sustainability Coordinator)
Councilmember Pete Dailey (Council Liaison)

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comment.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. **Environmental Commission Minutes**
Approved minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2023.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Tekslar, seconded by Commissioner Weiden, the
Environmental Commission approved the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2023.

The motion was approved (6-0) by the following vote:
AYES: Delagneau, Hecht, Tekslar, van Reis, Weiden, Humayun
NOES: None
ABSENT: Lu
ABSTAIN: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. **Environmental Commission Work Plan (FY 22/23)**
 - a. **Tree Protection Ordinance**
Casey Leedom provided a status update, followed by questions and comments from the
Commissioners.

No public comment.
 - b. **MWENDO**
Casey Leedom provided a status update, followed by questions and comments from the
Commissioners.

No public comment.

c. **Other Work Plan Items**

Commissioners asked questions on specific work plan items.

No public comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **Destination Electric (EV Fair)**

Planning Committee presented on the EV Fair, followed by discussion from the Commission.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioners provided updates from the May City Council meetings and assigned Commissioners to attend the 7/11 (Vice Chair Hecht) and 8/22 (Commissioner van Reis) City Council meetings.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Permitting process for heat pumps, solar panels, and battery storage
2. Gas-powered Leaf Blower Ban
3. Shoulder-Improvement Policy
4. SVCE Tariff On-Bill Program
5. Emergency Operations Center at Hillview
6. Presentation from Bidgely, Inc.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Delagneau adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.



MEETING DATE: August 14, 2023

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Tree Protection Ordinance Updates

BACKGROUND

The City's Tree Protection Ordinance (Los Altos Municipal Code Chapter 11.08) was intended to protect trees within the City and contains regulations regarding the removal of certain types of trees. The Ordinance was last updated in 2007.

As directed by the City Council on May 24, 2022, the Environmental Commission Subcommittee began the process of updating the Tree Protection Ordinance. As the Sustainability Coordinator positions were filled, staff eventually took over this process.

Staff reviewed the Subcommittees' research, conducted peer review with neighboring jurisdictions, and consulted with a Certified Arborist. The Arborist provided technical expertise and guidance, policy recommendations, and informed the updates to City Tree Planting lists. The Subcommittee also reviewed and provided feedback on these lists. Additionally, Staff met internally with the Planning and Building Divisions to gain an understanding of the Tree Removal/Tree Protection processes.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The goal of updating the Tree Protection Ordinance is to protect more trees, promote planting of locally native species and provide clear tree removal criteria and replacement standards. This will help ensure that trees are not removed without proper assessment and trees that are removed are replaced appropriately and will provide similar environmental benefits to reduce tree canopy loss. Staff will present the policy recommendations to the Environmental Commission for review and feedback.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Environmental Commission consider the proposed Tree Protection Ordinance updates and recommend moving forward to City Council.

Old Tree Removal Criteria:

1. The condition of the tree with respect to disease, imminent danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures and interference with utility services;
2. The necessity to remove the tree for economic or other enjoyment of the property;
3. The topography of the land and the effect of the tree removal upon erosion, soil retention and the diversion or increased flow of surface waters;
4. The number, species, size and location of existing trees in the area and the effect the removal would have upon shade, privacy impact, scenic beauty, property values and any established standards of the area;
5. The number of healthy trees the property is able to support according to good forestry practices;
6. The approximate age of the tree compared with average life span for that species;
7. Whether there are any reasonable and feasible alternatives that would allow for the preservation of the tree.

New Tree Removal Criteria:

1. The tree is dead, in poor health (as defined in the most recent edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal), or has a risk rating of *moderate*, *high*, or *extreme* which cannot be mitigated through sound arboricultural practices to a *low* risk rating.
2. The tree species is identified as an invasive or undesirable species (as defined by list on file with the Development Services Department).
3. The tree is interfering or will interfere with a utility, public transportation, waterway, or other public infrastructure system.
4. The tree is causing damage to a habitable structure which cannot be mitigated in another way.
5. Preservation of the tree will impede or significantly limit the use of real property and no reasonable or feasible alternative (as determined by the Development Services Director) exists to preserve the tree in the current location.

From: [Jim Wing](#)
To: [Tania Katbi](#); [Casey Leedom](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 02 Meeting Date 08/14/2023 New Tree Removal Procedure
Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 9:12:25 PM

Los Altos Environmental Commission Chair Delagneau and Commission Members,
Public Comment Agenda Item 02 Meeting Date 08/14/2023 New Tree Removal Procedure

I recommend you continue this agenda item and recommend committee revise draft New Tree Removal Criteria to make it objective. As a 55-year resident, I have seen several major trees removed because Los Altos code was not objective and poor decisions to remove were made by inexperienced Arborist and Los Altos staff. Some examples are 86 Third Street, 571 Lassen and 604 Milverton. On Milverton an Oak tree was removed that once served as center of Ohlone Indian spring camp ground [ref 1970 Foothill College Archeological dig]. Los Altos is a small village and never had Planning Staff Member with arborist training. Also Planning staff has high turnover and staff member making decision, may be new on job. Objective code will help staff to make better decisions.

I recommend following changes to New Tree Removal Criteria:

- **Item 1 – Complete description of “Guide for Plant Appraisal”. Provide requirement that risk rating to be done using International Society of Arboriculture [ISA] Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form [rev. 2013 or later]. This will ensure that report recommendations are based on objective data and done by arborists who use current tools / knowledge to collect data. Based on form data, tree removal should be approved only if assessment risk if High or Extreme**
- **Item 3 – Define “utility” as electrical power cable, underground natural gas pipe, and fiber optic cable. Public Transportation as roads for “bus”, “cars”, and “trucks”. Waterway as ephemeral streams [Stevens, Adobe, Permanente, and Hale].**

Many arborists may have a low-level license [3 or below] and no objective experience in tree removal. By specifying ISA, Los Altos will insure well trained arborist and high-quality objective report. Also, it will allow staff with little experience to make good objective decisions.

Federal Clean Water Act / EPA regulations define edge of payment “swale” on Los Altos streets without curb and gutter as a waterway.

Thank You for your consideration! Jim Wing, Milverton Road, Los Altos



MEETING DATE: August 14, 2023

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: MWENDO

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Santa Clara County Water Efficient New Development Task Force (“Task Force”) was formed to develop a Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) for jurisdictions in Santa Clara County to adopt. MWENDO includes water efficiency measures for new development projects, which are intended to extend the region’s water supplies. In September 2018, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, on behalf of the Task Force, procured the technical assistance of a qualified sustainability consulting firm to finalize MWENDO, with input from Task Force representatives, the California Building Standards Commission, and the California Energy Commission.

On May 10, 2023, Valley Water confirmed that they are no longer updating MWENDO for the 2022 CBSC adoption cycle, and instead will update it for the next Building Code update.

Staff conducted research and evaluated the feasibility of measures within the current Model Ordinance. They also conducted:

- Peer jurisdiction research to learn what MWENDO measures neighboring cities have adopted,
- Review of the 2022 CBSC (Title 24, CALGreen) for regulations on water efficiency and conservation, and
- Review of the City’s MWEL0 ordinance for overlap in requirements.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Staff does not recommend adoption of Valley Water’s current MWENDO Ordinance since many of the measures included are already addressed by existing City Codes. Items not addressed in the City Code are already required by the State of California, are voluntary within the 2022 Green Building Standards Code, or are not recommended for local adoption at this time, as outlined in the MWENDO Cost Effectiveness Study. Furthermore, Valley Water has confirmed that no jurisdictions have adopted MWENDO as a whole or in portions.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends revisiting MWENDO once Valley Water updates the Model Ordinance in conjunction with the next Triennial Building Code update in 2025.

Landscape Irrigation Efficiency Measures

Measure	Description	Recommendation / Status	Notes
Measure 4 - Pool and spa covers	Requires covers on in-ground swimming pools and spas.	Mostly Complete	Highly recommended in MWEL0 and almost all new construction already have pool covers due to safety measures required when installing swimming pools.
Measure 5 - Exterior faucet locks	Requires locks on faucets and hose bibs accessible to the public.	Not recommended	Already a voluntary measure. Not an issue in Los Altos.
Measure 6 - Irrigation water meters and flow sensors	Requires irrigation water meter and flow sensors.	Complete	Already required by existing MWEL0 Ordinance.
Measure 7 - Irrigation controllers	Requires weather-based irrigation controllers with rain sensor.	Complete	Already required by existing MWEL0 Ordinance.
Measure 8 - Irrigation spray nozzles	Limits flow rate for irrigation nozzles.	Mostly Complete	Water usage and flow rates are regulated in MWEL0 by zones. Savings for this measure were assumed to be zero.
Measure 9 - Irrigation audits	Requires irrigation audit for new landscapes.	Complete	Already required by existing MWEL0 Ordinance.

Indoor Water Conservation Measures

Measure	Description	Recommendation / Status	Notes
Measure 1 - Hot water waste reduction	Requires hot water recirculation with heat recovery systems in single-family homes.	Recommended for evaluation in 2025 Triennial Building Code update / VW's Model Ordinance update	Allowed voluntarily by the 2022 Green Building Code Residential Voluntary Measures (A4). According to MWENDO Cost Effectiveness Study, the overall package is too burdensome as a code requirement, the payback period is too long and not guaranteed and relies heavily on user behavior.
Measure 11 - Indoor water meters	Requires separate submeters for commercial and multi-family residential building areas.	Complete	Already required by existing City Code (2022 California Plumbing Code and MWELO Ordinance)
Measure 12 - Cooling towers	Requires cooling towers to recirculate water.	Recommended for evaluation in 2025 Triennial Building Code update / VW's Model Ordinance update	Cooling towers are regulated under Title 24, part 6 of the Green Building Code. This measure would need to be paired with other requirements to be cost-effective.
Measure 13 - Toilet flushing	Prohibits automatic flush toilets in commercial buildings.	Not recommended	Automatic flush toilets may be preferred for health and sanitation, even if they use more water.
Measure 14 - Faucets	Prohibits automatic sensor faucets in commercial buildings.	Not recommended	Automatic flush toilets may be preferred for health and sanitation, even if they use more water.
Measure 15 - Commercial kitchen equipment	Requires commercial kitchen equipment meet Green Building Standards Code voluntary measures (A5).	Recommended for evaluation in 2025 Triennial Building Code update / VW's Model Ordinance update	Already a voluntary measure in the Green Building Standards Code voluntary measures.
Measure 16 - Sale of water-efficient fixtures	Require stores to only sell fixtures that comply with State standards.	Complete	Covered by State and MWELO Requirements
Measure 17 - Installation of water-efficient fixtures	Requires plumbers and contractors to only install fixtures that comply with State standards.	Complete	Covered by State and MWELO Requirements

Water Reuse Measures

Measure	Description	Recommendation / Status	Notes
Measure 2 - Graywater-ready dwellings	Require dedicated graywater collection and distribution plumbing for single-family homes.	Not recommended	Relies heavily on user behavior. Would require extensive outreach. Allowed voluntarily by existing City Code (Building, 2019 California Plumbing Code, Chapter 15). Not proven to be cost-effective.
Measure 3 - Recycled water for residential common area landscaping	Require use of recycled water in common area residential landscaping controlled by a Homeowners Association.	Not recommended	Needed piping infrastructure is not currently available. Not proven cost-effective.
Measure 6 - Nonpotable water reuse	Require irrigation and indoor dual-plumbing to use recycled water or on-site water sources (e.g., rainwater, graywater). City must develop a program to permit and monitor on-site water reuse systems within 90 days of adoption.	Not recommended	Needed piping infrastructure is not currently available. Not proven cost-effective in climate zone.



MEETING DATE: August 14, 2023

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Work Plan (FY 23/24)

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission Work Plan is intended to focus the Commission’s agenda items and align them with City Council priorities and to serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2023/24 fiscal year. The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and review its priorities every six months.

The items shown in the attachment have been identified as potential items by City Staff and the Environmental Commission Chair for the 2023/24 Environmental Commission Work Plan. The prioritization of the tasks in the Work Plan and target dates will be updated by staff as needed.

DISCUSSION

Commission to discuss the updated work plan priorities for FY 23/24 and position on moving it forward to City Council.

Environmental Commission Work Plan FY23/24

Priority #	CAAP Action Item	Overall Priority Item	Specific Goals	Funding
1		Greening City Operations		
	4.3A	a. Fleet Electrification Planning	Complete SVCE Fleet Technical Assistance Program; Identify and apply for funding	Grant Dependent (City EVs and EVI)
	4.1A	b. Municipal Building Energy Audits	Complete BayREN Technical Assistance Program for Municipal Building Portfolio	Grant Depending (building modifications)
2		Urban Forest Management Plan		
	n/a	a. Tree Protection Ordinance	Adopt updated ordinance	n/a
	5.2A	b. Urban Forest Management Plan	Create RFP requirements and publish RFP	Grant Dependent
4	3.1B	Single Use Plastics Ordinance	Conduct outreach; Adopt ordinance	n/a
	5.1A	Water Conservation (MWENDO)	Adopt ordinance	n/a
3		Accelerate Existing Building Electrification		
	2.3A, 2.3B	a. Programming / Project Management Support to Electrify Existing Buildings	Program Planning / Grant Research	Grant dependent

	2.3A, 2.3B	b. Community Outreach	Contract with CCS or another firm to conduct community outreach around building electrification and other sustainability initiatives.	Budgeted for FY23/24
n/a		Emergency Management / Resilience		
	7.1B, 7.2C, 8.1A	a. Resilience Hubs	Evaluate existing municipal buildings / resilience hubs; identify potential improvements to building infrastructure and operations for extreme heat and wildfire smoke events or potential sites for resilience hubs.	n/a
	7.1A, 7.2B, 7.2C	b. Heat Safety and Air Quality Protocols	Evaluate existing heat safety and air quality protocols, make recommendations for policy updates.	n/a
n/a		Transportation		
	1.5A, 1.5B	a. DCFC Plan / Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Master Plan	EVSE needs assessment (conduct or create RFP)	Grant Dependent
	1.5A, 1.5D	b. EV Infrastructure Grants	Identify and apply for funding to install Community EV Charging Infrastructure	n/a
n/a	Overall CAAP Goal	GHG Inventory for 2020 and 2024 CAAP Progress Report	Conduct GHG Inventory for 2020 (City Staff); Compile and publish 2024	n/a

			CAAP Progress Report (EC and City Staff)	
Ongoing Efforts				
	1.4A	2024 EV Fair	Plan and execute EV Fair for 2024. Adjust as needed based on 2023 EV Fair.	
	n/a	Outreach and Education Efforts	EC to assist Staff as needed on outreach and education items.	
	n/a	Update Environmental Commission Webpage on City Website		



MEETING DATE: August 14, 2023

PREPARED BY: Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: Commission and Commission Handbook Updates

On May 23, 2023, City Council introduced an ordinance that amends Los Altos Municipal Code Chapter 2.08 Commissions Generally to modify membership, meeting frequency, and powers and duties of City Commissions. Below are some key changes:

- Commissioner terms expire on the last day of September
- Regular meetings shall not be held during the months of July and December

The new Powers and Duties as they relate to the Environmental Commission are as follows:

- A. Submit an annual report to council providing an update on the implementation of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) as well as updates on any relevant environmental policy or programs;
- B. Review and provide recommendations for the implementation of the CAAP, including prioritization of CAAP action items. Make annual recommendations for changes or updates to the Plan;
- C. Annually provide recommendations to the council that affect the natural and built environment to inform policy, budget, and CIP prioritization;
- D. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- E. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

The Commission Handbook guides Commissions and Committees, in their role as advisory bodies to the Council and is updated periodically. The last comprehensive review of the Commission Handbook was June 13, 2017. The updates in the Commission Handbook reflect changes in policies as determined and accepted by the City Council on July 11, 2023. Below are some key updates:

- New sections have been added on meeting day and time and workplans
- Changes in the section on reappointments and Commission Organization
- Addition of language on teleconferencing

Staff Liaison will keep the Commission updated as more information becomes available.



City of Los Altos

Commission Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

This manual functions as an introduction to service as a Commission or Committee member in Los Altos. For the purposes of this manual, the terms Commission member and Committee member are interchangeable. For those instances not covered in this manual, refer to the City Council Norms and Procedures and the Los Altos Municipal Code for additional guidance.

If there is any conflict between the rules set forth in this handbook and the Los Altos Municipal Code or the City Council Norms and Procedures, the Code and then the Norms and Procedures shall govern.

THE BASICS

Government in the City of Los Altos

The City of Los Altos operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council sets policy for the City which is then carried out by the City Manager and staff.

Commissions are integral to the City’s commitment to developing policies which reflect the needs and values of the community. Commissions work closely with staff and the Council to carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned by Council.



Figure 1: City of Los Altos organization

City Council

The City Council is elected by registered voters of the City of Los Altos and serves as the ‘Board of Directors’ for the City. The Council is the legislative body of the City. It sets policy and establishes the City’s overall priorities, direction and financial plan. The Council appoints the City Manager, who is responsible for the administration of City business, and the City Attorney.

To facilitate the exchange of information between the Council and its Commissions, one Councilmember will be assigned as a liaison to each Commission. These liaisons may attend meetings, but will not participate as a member of the Commission. While Council liaisons may offer general guidance, liaisons do not speak for the Council on matters not previously considered by the Council as a whole.

Commissions/Committees

Members are appointed by a majority vote of the City Council to serve on Commissions and Committees to advise and make recommendations to the Council and staff. Commissions focus on specific policy issues and provide additional opportunity for community participation in decision making.

From time to time, there may be instances when staff's recommendations on an issue may differ from that of the Commission. If this occurs, staff will inform the Commission of this in advance of the Council meeting and both recommendations will be presented to the Council for consideration.

As appointees of the City Council, members of Commissions are public officials and are appointed to represent all residents of the City, not individual organizations or special interest groups. Care should be taken to ensure that viewpoints expressed as public officials are consistent with City Council policy and the position of the majority of the Commission. Minority opinions are allowed but Commissioners acting in the role of a Commissioner should support actions taken by a majority of the Commission.

Unless speaking as the official spokesperson for the commission at a City Council or other public forum, commissioners should begin all written or verbal comments with "I am a commissioner for the [insert commission name here], but I am speaking on behalf of myself and my own personal beliefs."

Each Commission is established by Chapter 2.08 of the Los Altos Municipal Code, which includes the powers and duties of each Commission. Committees, both standing and ad hoc, are created by Council action and typically are assigned to focus on a specific topic for a short duration. Ad hoc Committees (sometimes referred to as Task Forces) may include Commissioners.

Staff

The City Manager serves as the 'Chief Executive Officer' for the City and implements policy set by the City Council, manages the day-to-day affairs of the City, appoints and removes employees, prepares the budget, enforces laws and ordinances, and makes recommendations to the Council on the general welfare of the City. He/she hires professionally trained staff to assist in carrying out his/her responsibilities.

The City Manager assigns staff members to assist the various Commissions in carrying out their responsibilities. These staff liaisons, by virtue of their technical training and experience, are competent to provide such assistance.

Commissions shall work closely with the staff liaisons; however, they do not have the authority to supervise or direct the work of staff.

Requests by a commission or commissioner for assistance in completing research or analysis for the benefit of a commission may be directed towards the Department Head which oversees the assigned Staff Liaison.

Role of Staff Liaison

- Attend all meetings of the Commission
- Prepare agendas in collaboration with the Chair
- Work with the Commission in the development of a work plan for the coming year and a summary of accomplishments for the previous year
- Research and prepare reports for the Commission, as is consistent with the work plan and/or Council direction
- Ensure agendas and reports are posted in compliance with State law and City protocols
- Prepare action minutes for approval by the Commission
- Prepare reports from the Commission to the Council, ensuring that reports represent the majority view and recommendation of the Commission
- Serve as the liaison between the Commission and City staff
- Submit all budget requests from Commissions to cover costs associated with accomplishing its mission as well as to attend training sessions related to accomplishing the work of the Commission
- Communicate directions from the City Council to the Commission
- Stay apprised of new laws and City protocols related to their assigned Commission or Commissions generally

Figure 2: Role of Staff Liaison

MEETING DAYS AND TIMES

Regularly scheduled commission meeting days and times are established by the City Council. To facilitate and encourage public participation no commission meeting can be held during the same meeting time as a City Council meeting and commissions should strive to not have any overlapping commission meeting with another commission's regular meeting. Additionally, commission meeting times are typically scheduled for later in the day to not impede on normal city business hours effectively ensuring services are available until the close of business each day.

Commission special meetings shall be held in accordance with the provisions of regularly scheduled meetings to not impede city services and operations.

With majority support of commission members any commission can request a change in the approved day and time for a commission regularly occurring meeting. A request for a change in meeting day and time shall be respective of city business hours to ensure that staff and services are provided throughout the day. Such request shall be included in an agenda report prepared by the staff liaison and placed on the Commission's agenda as a Discussion Item.

A complete calendar of all regular commission meetings can be found on the City website.

COMMISSION WORKPLANS

When a commission workplan is necessary each commission shall discuss and prepare its annual work plan based upon the City Council annual priorities and budget, which shall be submitted and approved by the City Council. The work plan is a list of the anticipated topics, assignments and goals that the Commission will focus on over a 12-month period. From time to time the City Council may amend the approved commission work plan in order to achieve the goals of the city. Any requested modifications should be in line with the goals and objectives of the commission and the city.

MEMBERSHIP ON CITY COMMISSIONS

Unless otherwise directed, Commission members must be residents of the City of Los Altos. If, at any time during their term, a member moves to a principal residence outside the City, they shall become ineligible to continue as a member of that body and shall notify the Commission's assigned staff liaison as soon as possible. It is expected that when a Commissioner moves to a principal residence outside the City, they will submit a letter of resignation to the assigned staff liaison and the City Clerk..

Members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the City Council. With the exception of Senior and Youth Commissioners, members serve for a term of four years and may serve a total of two, four-year terms, plus any portion of an unexpired term for which they have been appointed. Senior Commissioners may serve four, two-year terms. Youth Commissioner may serve two-year terms through the conclusion of their final year in high school.

No Commissioner shall serve simultaneously on two, separate Commissions. When a Commissioner ends their service on one Commission, the individual can then be appointed to a different Commission.

Ad hoc Committee members are appointed and shall serve until the task of the ad hoc committee has been completed at which time the Committee shall be disbanded. Council members and Commissioners may serve on ad hoc committees.

Two members of an immediate family, or persons residing in the same household, are not allowed to serve simultaneously on the same Commission or Committee, including ad hoc Committees. Immediate family members of City Council members are not eligible for appointment to any Commission or Committee during the term of the elected Councilmember.

Appointment

The City Council accepts applications for Commission positions during the formal recruitment period. Once per year in September, formal recruitments are conducted for those positions which are or will become vacant (including those for which an incumbent is eligible for reappointment). The City may conduct a recruitment for specific vacancies between formal recruitments if there is a vacancy that causes a commission to fall below quorum or at the direction of City Council after a request from a commission chair or commission liaison.

With the exception of the Youth Commission, all other commission recruitments will follow the same process. Youth Commission applicants are interviewed by the City Council Youth Commission Interview Committee which then makes appointment recommendations to the full City Council at a regular Council meeting.

The City Clerk announces that formal recruitment for commissioners is currently open so interested individuals should submit their application to the City for review. The City Clerk works with other City staff, City Council, and community groups to conduct as much public outreach as possible. This public outreach will include, but is not limited to posting on the City website, City social media, local newspapers, and email notifications to previous commissioners or applicants.

City Council may only review applications for appointment once the application period ends.

Interested applicants submit their complete application to City staff, where they will indicate their desired commission(s). City staff verifies that the individual lives within the City of Los Altos and may serve on the desired commission(s).

City Council holds one special meeting that will include interviews and voting on commissioners. All applicants are allotted the same amount of time to ensure that all candidates are given equal treatment.

After all interviews are completed, the City Council submits a ballot with their appointees.

Incumbent applicants will have their attendance record included as part of their application packet for review by the City Council.

Reappointment

Upon completion of the first four-year term, or an unexpired term, Commissioners shall notify the City Clerk that they have an interest in continuing on the commission and complete a new application for re-appointment to the Commission for another four-year term. In order to qualify for reappointment a Commissioner shall have met the minimum attendance requirements during the duration of their previous term. Commissioners requesting reappointment will be interviewed by the City Council. Reappointments will occur at the same time as new appointments to the Commission. Upon completion of their service, Commissioners are encouraged to meet, either in person or via telephone, with the Council Liaison assigned to their respective Commission or another Councilmember. The purpose of this meeting is to provide Commissioners with a chance to offer feedback to the Council regarding their time on the Commission.

Resignation/Removal

In the event a member is unable to continue serving because of change of residence, health, business requirements or other personal reasons, a letter of resignation must be submitted to the City Clerk.

Members of Commissions serve at the pleasure of the City Council. The City Council shall review members' performance and fulfillment of Commission member obligations and may remove a member from a Commission based upon that review. The City Council may discipline or remove a Commissioner at any time solely at the discretion of the Council. Any proposed removal can be with or without cause. A Councilmember who wishes to discipline or remove a Commissioner shall indicate their desire to place the discipline or removal on a future agenda at the end of a regular Council meeting. If three or more Councilmembers wish to agendize the discipline or removal of a certain Commissioner, the item will be placed on a future Council agenda.

Commission Member Responsibilities

- Prepare for and participate in Commission meetings
- Attend at least 75% of regular meetings annually
- File Form 700 on time, if required
- Complete Brown Act Training within 60 days of beginning service
- Complete two hours of Ethics Training within 30 days of assuming office and every two years thereafter
- Attend Annual Commission Training upon appointment and every two years while seated as a Commissioner

Figure 3: Commission Member Responsibilities

Attendance and Participation

A majority of members is necessary to conduct business. As such, Commission members are expected to attend no less than 75% of the regularly scheduled meetings annually during their term of office. At the end of each year, the City Council reviews an annual attendance report for each Commission. A Commissioner may be removed for failing to attend the required minimum number of meetings or after a third consecutive absence. If a Commissioner must miss a meeting, they shall inform the staff liaison a minimum of two weeks notice prior to the regularly-scheduled commission meeting whenever possible. If a Commission meeting is cancelled due to a lack of quorum, that meeting will still be considered a regularly scheduled meeting for purposes of calculating attendance, and those members whose absence caused the cancellation shall be charged with an absence for that meeting.

Commissions benefit from the informed input of each member of the body. Each Commission member is expected to exercise judgment in formulating recommendations to the City Council. Members are expected to be prepared for meetings and to participate and vote on every issue before the Commission, unless they are legally prohibited from participating. Lack of preparation and participation can be grounds for removal from a Commission. Each commission is to keep a rotation schedule for representation at City Council meetings by one of its members. Attendance is required when a commission has an item of interest on the Council agenda, so as to be available to answer Council questions.

Statement of Economic Interest

The Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) is a form on which designated employees and officials disclose certain financial interests. State law dictates that members of the Planning Commission must file Form 700s. In addition, the City identifies those positions which are subject to the City's Biennial Conflict of Interest Code. Those individuals appointed to positions identified in the Conflict of Interest Code are required to file Form 700s. Commission members not identified in the Conflict of Interest Code are not subject to these regulations.

Commissioners are responsible for ensuring that statements are filed properly and on time. assistance in completing the forms, contact the City Clerk’s Office or the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). Non-compliant Commissioners shall receive a letter from the City Clerk notifying them of their non-compliance and are subject to monetary fines. Continued non-compliance shall be grounds for removal from the Commission.

All statements filed are maintained in the City Clerk’s Office and are available for public review.

Type of Filing	Occurrence
Assuming Office	Within 30 days of assuming office
Annual	Each year on or before April 1
Leaving Office	Within 30 days of leaving office

Table 1: Deadlines for filing Form 700

Ethics Training

All those appointed by the Los Altos City Council to serve on Commissions shall complete at least two hours of public service ethics training every two years. New members must receive this training within 30 days of assuming office. Ethics training courses must have been reviewed and approved by the FPPC and the California Secretary of State. Members shall attend training sessions that are offered locally or by completing online training. Non-compliance shall be grounds for removal from the Commission.

It is the responsibility of a Commissioner to provide proof of completion of the ethics training program to the City Clerk. These documents are public records and are subject to public review.

The City Clerk provides periodic reports of Form 700 and Ethics Training compliance to the City Council. The Council may remove any non-compliant Commissioner.

THE BROWN ACT

The Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) is the State of California’s open government law. Its purpose is to ensure that deliberations and actions of local agency bodies are open to the public and that there is meaningful public access to a local agency’s decision-making process. All City Commissions are subject to the Brown Act. Staff liaisons to Commissions are versed in the elements of the Brown Act and will help Commissioners understand their obligations related to the Brown Act. In addition, certain subcommittees or ad hoc committees may be subject to the provisions of the Brown Act. Commissioners should consult with their staff liaison regarding questions of the Brown Act. Ultimately, it is up to the individual Commissioner to ensure that they are complying with the Brown Act.



Figure 4: Ralph M. Brown

A major element of the Brown Act relates to meetings of legislative bodies. A meeting is defined as the coming together of a majority or more of a particular body (also known as a quorum) where the business of that body is discussed. Meetings must be properly noticed and held in facilities that are open and accessible to all. All meetings must be held within the City of Los Altos. A discussion which occurs outside of a properly noticed meeting and which involves a majority or more of a body is a violation of the Brown Act. This includes serial discussions which involve only a portion of the Commission, but eventually involve a majority. The two most common serial discussions are daisy chain and hub and spoke.

Daisy Chain

A daisy chain is when Member A contacts Member B who then contacts Member C who then contacts Member D and so forth, until a majority of members has discussed an item within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction.

Hub and Spoke

A hub and spoke meeting is when one individual (the hub) contacts members individually (the spokes) until a majority has been achieved. The hub could be a Commissioner, staff member or member of the public.

To attempt to avoid serial meetings, emails from Commissioners that are intended for fellow Commissioners should be sent through the staff liaison. Commissioners should take care to not 'reply all' on emails.

Violations

Penalties for Brown Act violations can range from invalidation of an action taken to prosecution as a misdemeanor offense. In addition, there may be fines and/or attorney's fees associated with a violation of the Brown Act. Commissioners who violate the Brown Act may be subject to removal.

Whenever a questionable area arises, it should be brought to the attention of the City Attorney or City Clerk so that corrective actions or "cures" may be taken. Advice from the City Attorney or City Clerk should be followed completely to ensure all actions of the City comply with the Brown Act.

Types of meetings

There are two types of meetings which Commissions hold. The first, and most common, are regular meetings. These meetings are where a Commission accomplishes the vast majority of its work. Regular meeting days, times and locations are established by formal action of the Commission.

The second type are special meetings. A special meeting is any meeting held outside of the normal meeting day, time or location. Action may be taken at special meetings and agendas for those meetings should indicate the action recommended to be taken.

Special meetings may include study sessions. Study sessions are held to provide Commission members the opportunity to discuss and better understand a particular item. Generally, no action is taken at study sessions.

Agendas

The staff liaison, in collaboration with the Chair, is responsible for preparing all agendas of a Commission. All items of business that will be considered or discussed at a meeting shall be briefly described on the agenda. The description should define the proposed action to be considered so that members of the public will know the nature of the action under review and consideration. No discussion or action may be taken by a Commission on any item not on the agenda.

The Chair, or a majority of the Commission, may decide to take matters listed on the agenda out of the prescribed order.

All agendas and meeting materials are posted to the City's website as set forth in the Brown Act and the City's Open Government Policy. All Commissioners should sign up to receive meeting notices and associated agenda materials for their specific Commission through the City's website.

Meeting Minutes

Written minutes of all regular and special meetings are kept as the official record of business transacted and are taken by the staff liaison. Minutes are modeled after the City Council form of minutes known as “action minutes” and include a record of the legislative actions from the meeting. They do not include summaries of comments or discussion made by Commissioners or members of the public. The staff liaison will endeavor to distribute draft minutes within 10 days of the meeting. Action minutes will state the text of a motion voted on by the Commission, the result of the vote, identify which Commissioners voted “aye”, “no”, abstained, recused, or were absent. Action minutes will also identify whether motion passed or failed.

Any document submitted at a meeting, whether by a member of the public or a Commissioner, becomes part of the public record. The staff liaison should make a notation on the document of the date it was submitted and file it with the meeting packet. The staff liaison is responsible for posting the materials received within 48 hours of the meeting to the City’s website and forwarding the material to the members of the commission.

Adding items to a future agenda

Commissioners may request that items be placed on a future agenda. This is done by requesting an item during the “Potential Future Agenda Items” portion of the meeting or by emailing a request to the staff liaison. Requests must be for items that are under the purview of the Commission. One less than a majority of members is required to place an item on an agenda. The staff liaison will work with the Chair to determine the best meeting to place an item on an agenda. Any background materials or information should be provided to the staff liaison for inclusion in the agenda packet. Future agenda items must be consistent with the Commission’s Approved Work Plan.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Commission members are subject to all aspects of the Political Reform Act. Commission members must not make, participate in making, or attempt to influence in any manner a governmental decision which he/she knows, or should know, may have a material effect on a financial interest.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the Commission member to identify whether they have a conflict of interest or not. The City Attorney should be consulted as early as possible on any matters which may be a conflict of interest.

A Commission member who has a conflict of interest shall, immediately prior to the consideration of the matter, do all of the following: 1) publicly identify the financial interest that gives rise to the conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest in detail sufficient to be understood by the public, except that disclosure of the exact street address is not required; 2) recuse himself or herself from discussing and voting on the matter; and 3) leave the room until after the discussion, vote, and any other disposition of the matter is concluded. Notwithstanding this, a Commission member, not in the member’s capacity as a Commissioner, may speak on the issue during the time that the general public speaks on the issue.

If a Commission member has obtained a letter or other documentation from the FPPC to discuss and vote on an item, then the member shall provide the letter to the staff liaison and the City Clerk upon receipt of the letter and disclose at the next Commission meeting the existence of the letter or other authorization, briefly describe the circumstances of why the member sought clarification, the basis for the FPPC’s conclusion, and the file number or other unique identifier so that members of the public can request a copy from the FPPC. In addition, the member shall provide to the staff liaison a copy of the letter or other authorization no later than 24 hours after the meeting at which

the letter or other authorization is disclosed, so that a copy may be forwarded to any member of the public who requests a copy.

COMMISSION ORGANIZATION

Each Commission consists of between five and seven members, except the Youth Commission which consists of eleven members. Each member has an equal voice and vote on the Commission.

Chair and Vice Chair

To facilitate meetings and the work of the Commission, each Commission appoints a Chair and Vice Chair from the members of the Commission. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair shall rotate annually. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair occurs at the first meeting in October. In the event of either’s resignation or removal, the Commission shall elect another member to fill the remainder of the year. No member of a commission may serve consecutive terms as the chair, meaning that the chair must change annually.

The role of the Chair is to preside at Commission meetings and to run a timely and orderly meeting. The Vice Chair is to preside in the absence of the Chair. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent, the Commission may elect a Chair Pro Tem to conduct the meeting. It is incumbent upon the Chair to limit discussion and recommendations to those items on the agenda.

Subcommittees

A Commission may appoint special subcommittees, consisting of less than a majority of the body, to work on specific tasks. Subcommittees should be focused on one specific topic and should last no more than one year. These subcommittees are working bodies and may be responsible for generation of reports and analyses, which are reviewed by staff prior to distribution to the full Commission. Commissions may not create standing committees.

MEETING PROCEDURES

All Commission meetings are open to the public and should be approached in a dignified, respectful manner. It is the responsibility of all Commissioners to treat their duties and obligations seriously and to ensure that all meetings are productive and further the mission of the City.

Rules of Order

Rosenberg’s Rules of Order, with addendums adopted by the City Council, govern the conduct of Commission meetings. Information regarding the *Rules of Order* can be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office.

Consideration of agenda items

The standard procedure for considering individual agenda items shall be as outlined in Figure 5. From time to time, the prescribed order may be changed.

Official action requires a majority vote of the entire Commission/Committee, not just those present.

Consideration of an agenda item

1. Presentation by Staff, Commissioner or subcommittee
2. Commissioners ask clarifying questions
3. Members of the public are given an opportunity to speak on the item
4. Commissioners discuss the item
5. If needed, a motion is made upon which the Commission votes on the matter

Figure 5: Procedures for considering agenda items

Public Comment

Persons present at Commission meetings may comment on any item on the agenda. To facilitate an orderly meeting, each speaker is requested, but not required, to complete a Request to Speak card for each item they wish to speak on before discussion on that item begins. To ensure that all are heard, speakers are typically given three minutes to speak on each item. If there are more than 10 requests to speak on an agenda item, the Chair may limit each speaker's time to two minutes.

The Chair has the right to ask a member of the public to step down from speaking if over the allotted time or if comments are not related to the topic at hand.

During regular meetings, comments may be offered on items not on the agenda under that portion of the agenda identified for Public Comment. The Commission may not discuss nor take action on any item raised during the Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda portion of the meeting.

Teleconferencing

Commission members may participate in meetings via teleconference in accordance with State law (Gov. Code sec. 54953 and AB 2449). Members participating via teleconferencing under AB 2449 (Just Cause or Emergency Circumstances) must participate via audio and visual methods. In all other circumstances, members participating via teleconferencing shall participate via audio and visual methods, when practical. Members may participate via teleconference in no more than 20% of meetings in a calendar year (January to December), whether utilizing provisions of the traditional Brown Act or Just Cause or Emergency Circumstances. All meetings of the Commission must have a majority of members present in the physical meeting location within the City.

At the beginning of a meeting in which a member is participating via teleconference, the Chair, or the Vice Chair if the Chair is participating remotely, will ask the member(s) participating via teleconference to confirm the teleconference location was properly noticed according to State Law, the teleconference location is accessible to members of the public and whether anyone is present in the teleconference location besides the member.

DECORUM

Commissioners shall render the utmost courtesy to each other, the City Council, staff and members of the public. Commissioners may be subject to dismissal for failure to observe these standards.

Members of the public attending Commission meetings shall observe the same rules of order and decorum applicable to Commission members. Los Altos Municipal Code Chapter 2.05 – Public Meetings Rules for Conduct shall apply to all meetings. To provide an environment in which all viewpoints may be expressed, noise emanating from the audience, whether in opposition or support, shall not be permitted. Continual disruption of meetings by members of the public may be grounds for removal from the meeting.

TRAINING

Commissioners are expected to stay current on issues related to their service as a public official. Members are provided brief training following their appointment regarding their duties as a Commissioner and the Brown Act. Annual trainings are organized by the City Clerk and conducted by City staff to review roles and responsibilities and to provide information on any changes in laws or policies that may be relevant to conducting the work of the Commissions. Attendance at this training is required for all Commission members and staff liaisons. Individuals who are unable to attend the training session will be required to watch the video of the training and certify that they have completed the training.

Members of Commissions are encouraged, within budget limitations, to attend training related to their area of responsibility. It is intended that such attendance will broaden a member's knowledge and increase awareness of current developments relating to relevant areas of responsibility. The City may cover costs of registration and certain travel expenses in accordance with the City's Travel and Expense Policy. Requests for use of City funds must be approved in accordance with City Policy.

CONCLUSION

The City Council and staff appreciate your service as a Los Altos Commission member. The time and energy you expend help to make Los Altos the wonderful community it is. If at any time during your service, you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your staff liaison who can help address any issue which may arise.

Tips for Chair (and Vice Chair)

(and anyone who may have to run a meeting)

The role of the Chair of a Commission is to preside at meetings and to help move the work of the Commission forward. The Chair (and Vice Chair) does not have any extra authority or power beyond that of his/her fellow Commissioners.

As Chair, you are responsible for conducting meetings of the Commission. It is important to limit discussion to those items on the agenda. For each agenda item, it is suggested that you follow this procedure:

1. Announce what the item being considered is
2. Ask if there is a report for the item – generally, this is provided by the staff liaison but occasionally may be provided by another Commissioner
3. Ask Commissioners if there are any clarifying questions
4. Take public comment – instructions for how to take public comment are included in the “Meeting Procedures” section of the Commission Handbook
5. Facilitate discussion among the Commission – it is important that each Commissioner is given equal chance to speak and express his/her opinion
6. After discussion of the item, ensure that a conclusion is reached – this can be in the form of a motion, direction provided to staff or a subcommittee, decision to continue the item to a date certain or not certain, or to take no further action.

Applications

On occasion, a Commission may receive an application from a resident or community group which the Commission is to consider. In these instances, applicants are given a total of up to ten minutes to present their position/input prior to hearing other public comments. This is done after the staff has presented its report. After the applicant(s) has presented, public comment is taken from the audience. Following public comment, the applicant is given five minutes to provide a rebuttal to any issue raised during public comments.

Announcing votes

The Brown Act requires that all votes be clearly noted, both at the meeting and in the record. It is the Chair’s responsibility to ensure that the vote is noted during the meeting. This is done by announcing how each member voted on a particular issue. If the voting is unanimous, it is sufficient to state “passes unanimously.” The staff liaison will ensure that the minutes accurately reflect how each member voted on each issue.

Recess

It is customary to have a short recess two hours after the beginning of a meeting. The established hour after which no new items will be started is four hours after the beginning of the meeting. Remaining items, however, may be considered by consensus of the Commission/Committee.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-___

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS AMENDING LOS ALTOS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.08 AND CHAPTER 2.12 PERTAINING TO CITY COMMISSIONS GENERALLY AND THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos has guidelines for the 11 Commissions regarding their scope of work, number of Commissioners, and frequency of Commission meetings within Los Altos Municipal Code Sections 2.08 and 2.12; and

WHEREAS, during the City Council retreat on February 21, 2023, the Council received a presentation from staff highlighting that Los Altos, when compared to other cities in the county, has more Commissions, with more members, that meet more frequently than is average; and

WHEREAS, the City Council discussed each of the commissions during the Study Session on March 28, 2023 and provided direction, feedback, or general thoughts; and

WHEREAS, during the regular City Council meeting on April 25, 2023, City Council provided direction to City staff on the proposed changes; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will amend Los Altos Municipal Code Sections 2.08 and 2 regarding the guidelines for commissions; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State Guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Los Altos does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF CODE: Chapter 2.08 of the Los Altos Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.08.010 Creation of commissions.

There are hereby established the following commissions in the city, with the following regular voting members:

- A. Complete streets commission: Seven (7) members
- AB. Environmental commission: Seven (7) members;
- BC. Financial commission: Seven (7) members;
- CD. Historical commission: ~~Seven~~ Five (5) members;
- DE. Library commission: ~~Seven~~ Five (5) members;
- EF. Parks, arts, recreation and cultural ~~and recreation~~ commission: Seven (7) members;

- ~~FG.~~ Planning and transportation commission: Seven (7) members;
- ~~G.~~ Design review commission: Five members;
- H. Youth commission: Eleven (11) members; from school grades **seven nine (9)** through twelve (12); and
- I. Senior Commission: Seven (7) members, age fifty-five (55) or older. Exceptions may be made for individuals with special skills which may benefit seniors; and
- ~~J.~~ Public arts commission: Seven members; and
- ~~K.~~ Bicycle and pedestrian advisory commission: Seven members.

2.08.020 Membership.

- A. All voting members shall be appointed by the council, with the following exceptions:
 - 1. ~~Five~~ Four (4) members of the library commission shall be appointed by the council and ~~one (1) member~~ two members of the library commission shall be appointed by the Town of Los Altos Hills city council; and
 - 2. Five (5) members of the senior commission shall be appointed by the council and two (2) members of the senior commission shall be appointed by the Town of Los Altos Hills City Council.
- B. All voting commissioners shall be residents of the city, except that:
 - 1. ~~Three~~ One (1) voting members of the library commission need not be a residents;
 - 2. ~~Two~~ One (1) voting members of the historical commission need not be a residents provided the criteria of Section 2.12.010 are met; and
 - 3. Two (2) voting members of the senior commission need not be residents.

2.08.030 Terms, appointments, and vacancies.

- A. Commissioners, with the exception of senior and youth commissioners, shall serve for a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed to one additional four-year term. Terms shall be staggered and expire on the last day of ~~March~~ September. A commissioner shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Council and may be removed prior to the expiration of his or her term by a majority vote of the Council, and such removal may be with or without cause.
- B. Senior commissioners shall serve two-year terms with incumbents eligible to serve a total of four (4), two-year terms, in addition to an unexpired term. Terms shall be staggered and expire on the last day of ~~March~~ September.
- C. Youth commissioners shall be appointed from school grades **seven nine (9)** through twelve (12) and shall serve two-year terms with incumbents eligible to reapply for appointment for terms through and including their senior year. Terms shall be staggered and expire on June 30th. **The city council's youth commission interview committee shall interview commission applicants and recommend appointments.**
- D. **Except for Senior and Youth Commissioners,** a commissioner appointed to fill an unexpired term may be eligible for reappointment to an additional two (2) terms.
- E. The two-term limit shall apply to consecutive terms only. After a lapse of two (2) years, a former commissioner may reapply for an appointment to any commission desired as a new applicant. The two-year lapse between appointments shall apply

only to service on one commission. Upon leaving one commission, an individual may apply for an appointment to any other commission at any time.

- F. Appointments to each commission shall be made as terms expire or when unanticipated vacancies occur.
- G. Vacancies on any commission shall be filled by a majority vote of the council, except that the Town of Los Altos Hills City Council may fill ~~two vacancies~~ one vacancy on the library commission and two vacancies on the senior commission. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy prior to the expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed shall serve for such unexpired term.

2.08.040 Compensation

Commissioners shall serve without compensation. The council may approve ~~payment~~ reimbursement to commissioners of expenses incurred by them in their official capacity.

2.08.050 Organization

Annually, each commission shall elect one of its members as chair and one as vice-chair, each to serve a one-year term. Each commission shall provide the time, place, and manner for holding regular and special meetings. A majority of the authorized membership of a commission shall constitute a quorum of that commission. All meetings of the commission as a whole, or any standing subcommittees, shall be open to the public and noticed in accordance with ~~the California "Ralph M. Brown Act."~~ State law.

2.08.060 Meetings

Each commission shall establish a regular meeting day and time and shall hold meetings as listed. All Commissions shall not hold regular meetings during the months of July and December.

- A. Complete Streets Commission: once monthly
- B. Environmental Commission: once monthly
- C. Financial Commission: twice quarterly
- D. Historical Commission: once quarterly
- E. Library Commission: every other month
- F. Parks, arts, recreation and cultural commission: once monthly
- G. Planning Commission: twice monthly
- H. Senior Commission: once monthly
- I. Youth Commission: once monthly

Any regular meeting may be cancelled in accordance with State Law.

2.08.0670 Powers and duties of the planning commission.

The planning commission shall have those powers and duties given it by the State Planning Act (Title 7 of Chapter 3 of the Government Code of the state, commencing with Section 65100), as amended from time to time, and such other powers as granted it by the other provisions of this Municipal Code, or as may be entrusted to it by the council from time to time, and shall submit an annual report to the council.

2.08.0870 Powers and duties of the library commission.

- ~~A. The library commission shall; act in an advisory capacity to the council in all matters pertaining to the city library, shall cooperate with other governmental agencies and civic groups in the promotion of adequate and efficient library service to the citizens of the community, shall make budget recommendations to the council with regard to the library, and shall submit an annual report to the council.~~
- A. Serve as the principal liaison between the City Council of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills and the Santa Clara County Library District, and the various community entities that help to fund the library branches, including, but not limited to, the North County Library Authority, the Los Altos Library Endowment and the Friends of the Los Altos Library;
- B. Review the Los Altos Library programs, services and facilities, and make recommendations to the Council, the City Manager and/or County and Community Librarians as appropriate, for additions or modifications thereof;
- C. Conduct community outreach regarding the library facilities, programs and services, and report back to the Council and/or the County and Community Librarians as appropriate;
- D. Perform such other tasks as may be expressly requested of it by the City Council;
- E. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement;
- F. Submit an annual report to the Council; and
- G. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

2.08.0980 Powers and duties of the parks, art, and recreation and cultural commission.

~~The parks, art, and recreation and cultural commission shall; act in an advisory capacity to the council in all matters pertaining to parks and public recreation and shall cooperate with all other governmental agencies and civic groups in the advancement of sound parks and recreational planning and programming, shall make budget recommendations to the council with regard to parks and recreation, and shall submit an annual report to the council.~~

- A. Submit an annual report to the City Council providing an update on the direction and changes to parks and recreation facilities and infrastructure, and park, art, recreation and cultural programs and activities;
- B. Review and advise on programs, activities and resources designed to provide for, regulate and direct the future growth and development of parks facilities and recreation programming;

- C. Manage the public outdoor sculpture loan program. The commission will conduct sculpture searches, evaluate and recommend sculptures, identify sculpture locations and work with staff on placement and maintenance of sculptures;
- D. Annually review the inventory of art in public places and advise the city in matters pertaining to the maintenance, placement, alteration, sale, transfer, ownership and acceptance or refusal of donations of art in public places;
- E. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- F. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

2.08.090100 Powers and duties of the historical commission.

The historical commission shall have those powers and duties granted it by Section 2.12.030 of the Los Altos Municipal Code and/or as may be entrusted to it by the council from time to time and shall submit an annual report to the council.

2.08.1100 Powers and duties of the youth commission.

The youth commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the city council on matters relating to youth interests, youth concerns, and the need for outreach services. The city council's youth commission interview committee shall interview commission applicants and recommend appointments.

~~**2.08.110 Powers and duties of the design review commission.**~~

~~The design review commission shall have those powers and duties granted it by other provisions of this Municipal Code, or as may be entrusted to it by the council from time to time, and shall submit an annual report to the council.~~

2.08.120 Powers and duties of the environmental commission.

~~A. The commission shall have those powers and duties entrusted to it by the council from time to time, and shall submit an annual report to the council. The environmental commission studies and makes recommendations to council on issues that affect the natural and built environment in the city and the region. Additional duties include special projects as directed by the council.~~

- A. Submit an annual report to council providing an update on the implementation of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) as well as updates on any relevant environmental policy or programs;
- B. Review and provide recommendations for the implementation of the CAAP, including prioritization of CAAP action items. Make annual recommendations for changes or updates to the Plan;
- C. Annually provide recommendations to the council that affect the natural and built environment to inform policy, budget, and CIP prioritization;
- D. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- E. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

2.08.130 Powers and duties of the financial commission.

The commission shall have those powers and duties entrusted to it by the council including:

- A. Annual review of the investment policy;
- B. Annual review of independent financial audit;
- C. Review of auditor selection process;
- D. Review of financial projections and assumptions. This especially relates to review of revenue projections provided in the annual mid-year report which are used biennially as the basis for the service and financial plan;
- E. Special projects as directed by the council, city manager or finance director; and
- F. Submission of an annual report to the council.

The financial commission provides resident input to the council and staff regarding financial policy issues, and promotes resident participation and understanding regarding the financial condition of the city.

2.08.140 Powers and duties of the senior commission.

The joint Los Altos/Los Altos Hills senior commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the council in all matters relating to senior interests and concerns, shall make recommendations aimed at improving the life of seniors, and shall submit an annual report to the council.

~~**2.08.150 Powers and duties of the public arts commission.**~~

- ~~A. The public arts commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the council in all matters pertaining to public arts programs sponsored by the city. It shall take an active role in bringing about public awareness of the visual arts as well as in the definition, execution and promotion of those programs which include, but are not limited to, exhibition of sculpture, paintings, photography, video and other visual arts. The commission shall submit an annual report to the council.~~
- ~~B. The primary focus of the commission is the public outdoor sculpture loan program. The commission will conduct sculpture searches, evaluate and recommend sculptures, identify sculpture locations and work with city staff on placement and maintenance of sculptures. The commission will also assist the city with ensuring that all conditions and agreements are being met. In addition, the commission will promote artists' works through media exposure of the sculpture program.~~

2.08.1560 Powers and duties of the complete streets commission.

The Complete Streets Commissions shall:

- A. Submit an annual report to council providing an update on the implementation of the Complete Streets Master Plan (CSMP) as well as an update on any relevant transportation policy or programs;
- B. Review and advise on the implementation of the projects outlined in the CSMP;
- C. Annually provide recommendations to the council on transportation-related priorities to inform policy, budget, and CIP prioritization;
- D. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- E. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

~~Help to create multi-modal transportation solutions and policies that enable safe, attractive, comfortable and independent access and travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists of all ages and abilities, including connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries.~~

- ~~• Shall advise the council on existing and proposed city policies related to traffic calming and traffic enforcement.~~
- ~~• Shall advise the council on projects and budget priorities for transportation-related capital improvements.~~
- ~~• Provide for community engagement and serve as a conduit for community input.~~

2.08.1670 Role of staff liaison.

The city manager, or his/her designee, shall appoint an individual to serve as liaison to each commission. The role of the staff liaison is to assist the commission in carrying out its responsibilities. Duties of the staff liaison shall include attending all meetings of the commission, preparing agendas in collaboration with the chair, ensuring agendas and reports are posted in compliance with state law and city protocols, researching and preparing reports for the commission, as is consistent with the work plan and/or council direction, preparing action minutes for approval by the commission, preparing reports from the commission to the council, serving as the liaison between the commission and other city staff, communicating directions from the city council to the commission, and staying apprised of new laws and city protocols related to their assigned commission or commissions generally.

2.08.170 Contract authority.

No commission shall have the power or authority to authorize the expenditure of city funds or to bind the city to any written or implied contract.

2.08.180 Adherence to City policies

Unless otherwise provided herein, Commissioners shall be bound by all City policies, including the Commission Handbook.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF CODE: Chapter 2.12 of the Los Altos Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.12.010 Creation – Qualification and residency of members.

A historical commission consisting of ~~seven~~ five (5) unpaid members, with the following qualifications, shall be appointed by the city council:

- A. ~~Two~~ One (1) members who, by reason of training and experience, ~~are~~ is (1) knowledgeable in the field of construction and structural rehabilitation, such as a licensed architect, engineer or contractor; or (2) social/architectural historian, archeologist and/or urban planner. Such members must either reside or have a place of business within the city; provided, however, with the approval of the city council, any such members who does not maintain an office within the city may reside within the geographic area covered by the 94022 and 94024 U.S. Postal Service zip codes.
- B. ~~Five~~ Four (4) members appointed at large having demonstrated interest in preservation of the historic resources within the city. Such members must be residents of the city.
- C. The original appointment of members of the commission shall be as provided in Section 2.08.030 of this title.

The term of office of members of the commission shall be as provided in Section 2.08.030 of this title.

2.12.020 Organization.

- A. The commission shall elect annually, ~~on or before January 31st,~~ one of its members to serve in the office of chair~~man~~, and may elect such other officers from among its members as designated in its charter. Should a mid-year vacancy in any office occur, the commission shall elect a replacement officer at the next regular or noticed special meeting to serve until the next annual election of officers.
- B. The city manager, or his/her designee, shall appoint an individual to serve as liaison to each commission. The role of the staff liaison is to assist the commission in carrying out its responsibilities. Duties of the staff liaison shall include attending all meetings of the commission, preparing agendas in collaboration with the chair, ensuring agendas and reports are posted in compliance with state law and city protocols, researching and preparing reports for the commission, as is consistent with the work plan and/or council direction, preparing action minutes for approval by the commission, preparing reports from the commission to the council, serving as the liaison between the commission and other city staff, communicating directions from the city council to the commission, and staying apprised of new laws and city protocols related to their assigned commission or commissions generally. The planning director or her/his authorized representative shall act as secretary for the historical commission, shall be the custodian of its records, shall conduct official correspondence, and shall generally supervise the clerical and technical work performed at the request or on behalf of the historical commission.
- C. The historical commission shall meet quarterly~~monthly~~, or more frequently upon call of the chair~~man~~ or commission staff liaison, as necessary. All meetings shall be

open to the public and a public record shall be kept of all commission proceedings and actions.

A majority of commissioners shall constitute a quorum, with the chairman having a vote. The city council shall prescribe rules and regulations for the conduct of its business, thereafter, giving the powers and authority to perform the duties hereinafter enumerated.

2.12.030 Powers and duties.

The historical commission shall be advisory only. It shall advise the city council, the planning commission and the agencies and departments of the city. The historical commission shall establish liaison and work in conjunction with such authorities to implement the purposes of this chapter. The historical commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. ~~Work with staff to review and make recommendations on changes to~~ **Conduct, or cause to be conducted, a comprehensive survey of properties within the boundaries of the city for the purpose of establishing** the historic resources inventory. To qualify for inclusion in the historic resources inventory, a property must satisfy the criteria listed in this chapter. The inventory shall be publicized and periodically updated, and a copy thereof shall be kept on file in the planning department;
- B. Recommend to the city council specific proposals for designation as an historic landmark or historic district;
- C. Recommend to the appropriate city agencies or departments, projects and action programs for the recognition, conservation, ~~enhancement~~ and use of the city's historic resources, including standards to be followed with respect to any applications for permits to construct, change, alter, remodel, remove or otherwise affect such resources;
- D. Review and comment upon existing or proposed ordinances, plans or policies of the city as they relate to historic resources;
- E. Review and comment upon all applications for building demolition ~~or grading permits~~ involving work to be performed upon or within a designated historic landmark ~~or historic district~~, and all applications for tentative map approval, rezoning, building site approval, use permit, variance approval, design review or other approval pertaining to or significantly affecting any historic resource. ~~The commission's comments shall be forwarded to the city agency or department processing the application within thirty (30) days after receiving the request for such comments;~~
- F. ~~Investigate and report to the city council on the availability of federal, state, county, local or private funding sources or programs for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic resources;~~
- G. ~~Cooperate with county, state and federal governments and with private organizations in the pursuit of the objectives of historical preservation, with the approval of and at the direction of the city council;~~

- ~~HF.~~ Provide resource information on the restoration, alteration, decoration, landscaping or maintenance of any cultural resource including the landmark, landmark site, historic district, or neighboring property within public view and promote and conduct public information and educational programs pertaining to those resources;
- ~~IG.~~ Submit an annual report to the City Council providing an update on the additions and deletions from the Historic Resources Inventory; ~~Participate in, promote and conduct public information and educational programs pertaining to historic resources;~~
- ~~JH.~~ Perform such other functions as may be delegated to it by resolution or motion of the city council;
- ~~KI.~~ Cooperate with the association of the Los Altos historical museum;
- ~~LJ.~~ Submit an annual ~~report~~ work plan to the city council; and
- ~~MK.~~ Review and make its recommendation to the planning director on all permit applications pursuant to Article 3, Sections 12.44.100 through 12.44.170.

SECTION 3. CONSTITUTIONALITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

SECTION 4. PUBLICATION. This ordinance shall be published as provided in Government Code section 36933.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective upon the commencement of the thirty-first day following the adoption date.

The foregoing ordinance was duly and properly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Los Altos held on May 23, 2023 and was thereafter, at a regular meeting held on June 13, 2023 passed and adopted by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

Sally Meadows, MAYOR

Attest:

Melissa Thurman, MMC
CITY CLERK

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-493

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
AMENDING LOS ALTOS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.08 AND CHAPTER
2.12 PERTAINING TO CITY COMMISSIONS GENERALLY AND THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos has guidelines for the 11 Commissions regarding their scope of work, number of Commissioners, and frequency of Commission meetings within Los Altos Municipal Code Sections 2.08 and 2.12; and

WHEREAS, during the City Council retreat on February 21, 2023, the Council received a presentation from staff highlighting that Los Altos, when compared to other cities in the county, has more Commissions, with more members, that meet more frequently than is average; and

WHEREAS, the City Council discussed each of the commissions during the Study Session on March 28, 2023 and provided direction, feedback, or general thoughts; and

WHEREAS, during the regular City Council meeting on April 25, 2023, City Council provided direction to City staff on the proposed changes; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will amend Los Altos Municipal Code Sections 2.08 and 2 regarding the guidelines for commissions; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State Guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Los Altos does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF CODE: Chapter 2.08 of the Los Altos Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.08.010 Creation of commissions.

There are hereby established the following commissions in the city, with the following regular voting members:

- A. Complete streets commission: Seven (7) members
- B. Environmental commission: Seven (7) members;
- C. Financial commission: Seven (7) members;
- D. Historical commission: Five (5) members;
- E. Library commission: Five (5) members;
- F. Parks, arts, recreation and cultural commission: Seven (7) members;
- G. Planning commission: Seven (7) members;

- H. Youth commission: Eleven (11) members; from school grades nine (9) through twelve (12); and
- I. Senior Commission: Seven (7) members, age fifty-five (55) or older. Exceptions may be made for individuals with special skills which may benefit seniors.

2.08.020 Membership.

- A. All voting members shall be appointed by the council, with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Four (4) members of the library commission shall be appointed by the council and one (1) member of the library commission shall be appointed by the Town of Los Altos Hills city council; and
 - 2. Five (5) members of the senior commission shall be appointed by the council and two (2) members of the senior commission shall be appointed by the Town of Los Altos Hills City Council.
- B. All voting commissioners shall be residents of the city, except that:
 - 1. One (1) voting members of the library commission need not be a resident;
 - 2. One (1) voting members of the historical commission need not be a residents provided the criteria of Section 2.12.010 are met; and
 - 3. Two (2) voting members of the senior commission need not be residents.

2.08.030 Terms, appointments, and vacancies.

- A. Commissioners, with the exception of senior and youth commissioners, shall serve for a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed to one additional four-year term. Terms shall be staggered and expire on the last day of September. A commissioner shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Council and may be removed prior to the expiration of his or her term by a majority vote of the Council, and such removal may be with or without cause.
- B. Senior commissioners shall serve two-year terms with incumbents eligible to serve a total of four (4), two-year terms, in addition to an unexpired term. Terms shall be staggered and expire on the last day of September.
- C. Youth commissioners shall be appointed from school grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and shall serve two-year terms with incumbents eligible to reapply for appointment for terms through and including their senior year. Terms shall be staggered and expire on June 30th. The city council's youth commission interview committee shall interview commission applicants and recommend appointments.
- D. Except for Senior and Youth Commissioners, a commissioner appointed to fill an unexpired term may be eligible for reappointment to an additional two (2) terms.
- E. The two-term limit shall apply to consecutive terms only. After a lapse of two (2) years, a former commissioner may reapply for an appointment to any commission desired as a new applicant. The two-year lapse between appointments shall apply only to service on one commission. Upon leaving one commission, an individual may apply for an appointment to any other commission at any time.
- F. Appointments to each commission shall be made as terms expire or when unanticipated vacancies occur.

- G. Vacancies on any commission shall be filled by a majority vote of the council, except that the Town of Los Altos Hills City Council may fill one vacancy on the library commission and two vacancies on the senior commission. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy prior to the expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed shall serve for such unexpired term.

2.08.040 Compensation

Commissioners shall serve without compensation. The council may approve reimbursement to commissioners of expenses incurred by them in their official capacity.

2.08.050 Organization

Annually, each commission shall elect one of its members as chair and one as vice-chair, each to serve a one-year term. Each commission shall provide the time, place, and manner for holding regular and special meetings. A majority of the authorized membership of a commission shall constitute a quorum of that commission. All meetings of the commission as a whole, or any standing subcommittees, shall be open to the public and noticed in accordance with State law.

2.08.060 Meetings

Each commission shall establish a regular meeting day and time and shall hold meetings as listed. All Commissions shall not hold regular meetings during the months of July and December.

- A. Complete Streets Commission: once monthly
- B. Environmental Commission: once monthly
- C. Financial Commission: twice quarterly
- D. Historical Commission: once quarterly
- E. Library Commission: every other month
- F. Parks, arts, recreation and cultural commission: once monthly
- G. Planning Commission: twice monthly
- H. Senior Commission: once monthly
- I. Youth Commission: once monthly

Any regular meeting may be cancelled in accordance with State Law.

2.08.070 Powers and duties of the planning commission.

The planning commission shall have those powers and duties given it by the State Planning Act (Title 7 of Chapter 3 of the Government Code of the state, commencing with Section 65100), as amended from time to time, and such other powers as granted it by the other provisions of this Municipal Code, or as may be entrusted to it by the council from time to time, and shall submit an annual report to the council.

2.08.080 Powers and duties of the library commission.

The library commission shall:

- A. Serve as the principal liaison between the City Council of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills and the Santa Clara County Library District, and the various community entities that help to fund the library branches, including, but not limited to, the North County Library Authority, the Los Altos Library Endowment and the Friends of the Los Altos Library;
- B. Review the Los Altos Library programs, services and facilities, and make recommendations to the Council, the City Manager and/or County and Community Librarians as appropriate, for additions or modifications thereof;
- C. Conduct community outreach regarding the library facilities, programs and services, and report back to the Council and/or the County and Community Librarians as appropriate;
- D. Perform such other tasks as may be expressly requested of it by the City Council;
- E. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement;
- F. Submit an annual report to the Council; and
- G. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

2.08.090 Powers and duties of the parks, art, recreation and cultural commission.

The parks, art, recreation and cultural commission shall:

- A. Submit an annual report to the City Council providing an update on the direction and changes to parks and recreation facilities and infrastructure, and park, art, recreation and cultural programs and activities;
- B. Review and advise on programs, activities and resources designed to provide for, regulate and direct the future growth and development of parks facilities and recreation programming;
- C. Manage the public outdoor sculpture loan program. The commission will conduct sculpture searches, evaluate and recommend sculptures, identify sculpture locations and work with staff on placement and maintenance of sculptures;
- D. Annually review the inventory of art in public places and advise the city in matters pertaining to the maintenance, placement, alteration, sale, transfer, ownership and acceptance or refusal of donations of art in public places;
- E. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- F. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

2.08.100 Powers and duties of the historical commission.

The historical commission shall have those powers and duties granted it by Section 2.12.030 of the Los Altos Municipal Code and/or as may be entrusted to it by the council from time to time and shall submit an annual report to the council.

2.08.110 Powers and duties of the youth commission.

The youth commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the city council on matters relating to youth interests, youth concerns, and the need for outreach services.

2.08.120 Powers and duties of the environmental commission.

The commission shall:

- A. Submit an annual report to council providing an update on the implementation of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) as well as updates on any relevant environmental policy or programs;
- B. Review and provide recommendations for the implementation of the CAAP, including prioritization of CAAP action items. Make annual recommendations for changes or updates to the Plan;
- C. Annually provide recommendations to the council that affect the natural and built environment to inform policy, budget, and CIP prioritization;
- D. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- E. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

2.08.130 Powers and duties of the financial commission.

The commission shall have those powers and duties entrusted to it by the council including:

- A. Annual review of the investment policy;
- B. Annual review of independent financial audit;
- C. Review of auditor selection process;
- D. Review of financial projections and assumptions. This especially relates to review of revenue projections provided in the annual mid-year report which are used biennially as the basis for the service and financial plan;
- E. Special projects as directed by the council, city manager or finance director; and
- F. Submission of an annual report to the council.

The financial commission provides resident input to the council and staff regarding financial policy issues, and promotes resident participation and understanding regarding the financial condition of the city.

2.08.140 Powers and duties of the senior commission.

The joint Los Altos/Los Altos Hills senior commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the council in all matters relating to senior interests and concerns, shall make recommendations aimed at improving the life of seniors, and shall submit an annual report to the council.

2.08.150 Powers and duties of the complete streets commission.

The Complete Streets Commissions shall:

- A. Submit an annual report to council providing an update on the implementation of the Complete Streets Master Plan (CSMP) as well as an update on any relevant transportation policy or programs;
- B. Review and advise on the implementation of the projects outlined in the CSMP;
- C. Annually provide recommendations to the council on transportation-related priorities to inform policy, budget, and CIP prioritization;
- D. Serve as a forum for community input and engagement; and
- E. Perform other tasks and duties as assigned by the Council.

2.08.160 Role of staff liaison.

The city manager, or his/her designee, shall appoint an individual to serve as liaison to each commission. The role of the staff liaison is to assist the commission in carrying out its responsibilities. Duties of the staff liaison shall include attending all meetings of the commission, preparing agendas in collaboration with the chair, ensuring agendas and reports are posted in compliance with state law and city protocols, researching and preparing reports for the commission, as is consistent with the work plan and/or council direction, preparing action minutes for approval by the commission, preparing reports from the commission to the council, serving as the liaison between the commission and other city staff, communicating directions from the city council to the commission, and staying apprised of new laws and city protocols related to their assigned commission or commissions generally.

2.08.170 Contract authority.

No commission shall have the power or authority to authorize the expenditure of city funds or to bind the city to any written or implied contract.

2.08.180 Adherence to City policies

Unless otherwise provided herein, Commissioners shall be bound by all City policies, including the Commission Handbook.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF CODE: Chapter 2.12 of the Los Altos Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.12.010 Creation – Qualification and residency of members.

A historical commission consisting of five (5) unpaid members, with the following qualifications, shall be appointed by the city council:

- A. One (1) members who, by reason of training and experience, is (1) knowledgeable in the field of construction and structural rehabilitation, such as a licensed architect, engineer or contractor; or (2) social/architectural historian,

archeologist and/or urban planner. Such members must either reside or have a place of business within the city; provided, however, with the approval of the city council, any such members who does not maintain an office within the city may reside within the geographic area covered by the 94022 and 94024 U.S. Postal Service zip codes.

- B. Four (4) members appointed at large having demonstrated interest in preservation of the historic resources within the city. Such members must be residents of the city.
- C. The original appointment of members of the commission shall be as provided in Section 2.08.030 of this title.

The term of office of members of the commission shall be as provided in Section 2.08.030 of this title.

2.12.020 Organization.

- A. The commission shall elect annually one of its members to serve in the office of chair, and may elect such other officers from among its members as designated in its charter. Should a mid-year vacancy in any office occur, the commission shall elect a replacement officer at the next regular or noticed special meeting to serve until the next annual election of officers.
- B. The city manager, or his/her designee, shall appoint an individual to serve as liaison to each commission. The role of the staff liaison is to assist the commission in carrying out its responsibilities. Duties of the staff liaison shall include attending all meetings of the commission, preparing agendas in collaboration with the chair, ensuring agendas and reports are posted in compliance with state law and city protocols, researching and preparing reports for the commission, as is consistent with the work plan and/or council direction, preparing action minutes for approval by the commission, preparing reports from the commission to the council, serving as the liaison between the commission and other city staff, communicating directions from the city council to the commission, and staying apprised of new laws and city protocols related to their assigned commission or commissions generally.
- C. The historical commission shall meet quarterly, or more frequently upon call of the chair or commission staff liaison, as necessary. All meetings shall be open to the public and a public record shall be kept of all commission proceedings and actions.

A majority of commissioners shall constitute a quorum, with the chair having a vote. The city council shall prescribe rules and regulations for the conduct of its business, thereafter, giving the powers and authority to perform the duties hereinafter enumerated.

2.12.030 Powers and duties.

The historical commission shall be advisory only. It shall advise the city council, the planning commission and the agencies and departments of the city. The historical commission shall establish liaison and work in conjunction with such authorities to

implement the purposes of this chapter. The historical commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. Work with staff to review and make recommendations on changes to the historic resources inventory. To qualify for inclusion in the historic resources inventory, a property must satisfy the criteria listed in this chapter. The inventory shall be publicized and periodically updated, and a copy thereof shall be kept on file in the planning department;
- B. Recommend to the city council specific proposals for designation as an historic landmark or historic district;
- C. Recommend to the appropriate city agencies or departments, projects and action programs for the recognition, conservation, and use of the city's historic resources, including standards to be followed with respect to any applications for permits to construct, change, alter, remodel, remove or otherwise affect such resources;
- D. Review and comment upon existing or proposed ordinances, plans or policies of the city as they relate to historic resources;
- E. Review and comment upon all applications for building demolition involving work to be performed upon or within a designated historic landmark, and all applications for tentative map approval, rezoning, building site approval, use permit, variance approval, design review or other approval pertaining to or significantly affecting any historic resource;
- F. Provide resource information on the restoration, alteration, decoration, landscaping or maintenance of any cultural resource including the landmark, landmark site, historic district, or neighboring property within public view and promote and conduct public information and educational programs pertaining to those resources;
- G. Submit an annual report to the City Council providing an update on the additions and deletions from the Historic Resources Inventory;
- H. Perform such other functions as may be delegated to it by resolution or motion of the city council;
- I. Cooperate with the association of the Los Altos historical museum;
- J. Submit an annual work plan to the city council; and
- K. Review and make its recommendation to the planning director on all permit applications pursuant to Article 3, Sections 12.44.100 through 12.44.170.

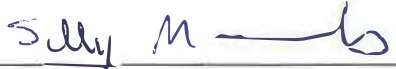
SECTION 3. CONSTITUTIONALITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

SECTION 4. PUBLICATION. This ordinance shall be published as provided in Government Code section 36933.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective upon the commencement of the thirty-first day following the adoption date.

The foregoing ordinance was duly and properly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Los Altos held on May 23, 2023 and was thereafter, at a regular meeting held on June 13, 2023 passed and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Dailey, Fligor, Lee Eng, Meadows, Weinberg
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:


Sally Meadows, MAYOR

Attest:


Melissa Thurman, MMC
CITY CLERK

