

MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee

April 25, 2024

Hearing Room 416, City Hall

10:18 AM – 11:47 AM

Committee Members

Julia D’Antonio

Jennifer Friedenbach

Bonnie Preston

Scott Walton

Shanell Williams

Members of the Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee attended this meeting in-person. The agenda, video recording, audio recording, and caption notes are posted at:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/45968?view_id=209&redirect=true

Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at:

<https://www.sf.gov/meeting/april-25-2024/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-regular-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:18am and roll was taken.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D’Antonio: Present

Member Friedenbach: Present

Member Preston: Present

Member Walton: Present

Chair Williams: Present

Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders, and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

2) **Opportunity for the public to comment on any matters within the Committee’s jurisdiction that are not on the agenda.**

There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments.

3) Action Item

Approval, with possible modification, of the meeting minutes from December 8, 2023, February 8, 2024, and February 22, 2024

Vice Chair D’Antonio made a motion to approve meeting minutes from December 8, 2023, February 8, 2024 and February 22, 2024. Member Friedenbach seconded the motion.

There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments on this agenda item.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D’Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

4) Discussion/Action Item

Quorum Requirements and Possible Action to Amend Bylaws to Reduce Quorum

The Committee’s Deputy City Attorney, Kate Kimberlin, explained the legal requirements regarding the number of members needed for “quorum” versus the number of members needed for a “majority” to vote on an action item under state and local law. The City Attorney noted that the number of members required to vote can be changed but did not advise the Committee to do so as this is not consistent with how other advisory bodies operate and because the agenda item name may not be sufficient in describing the action to change “majority” rather than “quorum.”

The Committee considered that advice and determined it could not amend the definition of “quorum.” However, the Committee determined that it would amend the definition of a “majority” when there are three or more vacant seats on the Committee.

Members Walton and Preston asked for more clarification around any potential ramifications for taking the vote at this meeting rather than the next. The City Attorney explained that the Committee could be required to take a subsequent revote for any actions taken at the current meeting if a member of the public were to contest the amendment to the bylaws. The Committee discussed options and reasoning around changing the bylaws.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to amend the bylaws to allow for voting to take place in the case that the Committee has a quorum and there are at least four voting members to affirm the motion. Vice Chair D’Antonio seconded the motion.

Chair Williams opened public comment.

Solinna from the Coalition on Homelessness provided public comment. The speaker explained that voting “yes” to amend the bylaws is important because there is an immediate need in the community for these funds that are being voted on.

Mercedes Bullock from the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment recommending the Committee vote “yes” to amend the bylaws explaining that when votes are not able to happen, the public isn’t being served.

An unnamed person gave a public comment urging the Committee vote "yes" on this item because they're worried that unspent funds will be moved to other areas.

Miguel Carrera, with the Coalition on Homelessness, gave a public comment. Mr. Carrera stated that many families are suffering on the streets every night and need opportunities for permanent housing. To help solve this problem, Mr. Carrera asked that the Committee vote "yes" on this agenda item.

There were no more additional phone or in person public comments on this agenda item.

Member Friedenbach re-stated her motion to amend the bylaws to allow for voting to take place in the case that the Committee has a quorum and there are at least four voting members to affirm the motion. Vice Chair D'Antonio restated her seconding of the motion.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

The amended bylaws can be found [here](#).

5) Discussion/Action Item

Recall of Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Housing Fund Allocation Proposal from February 8, 2024 Special Meeting

Vice Chair D'Antonio identified a that she has a conflict of interest related to a vote the Committee took in February. Because of this, Chair Williams explained that the Committee would need to rescind the previous vote on TAY Housing, as the matter included both discussion and voting by Vice Chair D'Antonio.

Radhika Mehlotra, the Homeless Policy Specialist from the Controller's Office, explained that the Committee can vote to rescind the previous vote, though it would require a majority of members to be present and without conflict.

Vice Chair D'Antonio made a motion to rescind the TAY Housing Fund Allocation Proposal from February 8, 2024 Special Meeting. Member Friedenbach seconded the motion.

Chair Williams opened public comment.

Marnie Regan of Larkin Street Youth Services, HESPA, and TAY Sub-Committee gave a public comment. Ms. Regan explained that she was not clear as to how or why the rescinding of the vote was happening but that she wanted to share her views on the TAY funding proposal. Ms. Regan thanked Member Friedenbach for her support and leadership around the OCOH TAY funds and explained that her understanding is that the Mayor's Office has suggested to sweep the dollars dedicated to TAY and move it to emergency hotel rooms for families. Ms. Regan noted that TAY providers support housing for families but that the Mayor should declare a state of emergency and seek other funds to support this.

Ms. Regan noted that they have a strategic plan to use TAY funds which includes housing acquisition, rapid rehousing for TAY including those who are LGBTQ, and the TAY housing ladder program.

Solinn from the Coalition on Homelessness provided public comment urging that the Committee does not allow any cuts to the family and youth housing subsidies. The speaker expressed concern that cutting funding from TAY housing funds will perpetuate the cycle of homelessness.

Mercedes Bullock of the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. Ms. Bullock urged the Committee to ensure funds reach youth and families especially as summertime approaches and access to food and resources can be limited when school is not in session.

Yessica Hernandez of the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. Ms. Hernandez stated that only 5% of the City's budget goes towards homelessness and expressed frustration with the City's choice to bring in pandas while making large budget cuts to departments like DCYF.

Miguel Carrera of the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. Mr. Carrera stated that the Mayor is trying to cut budgets from important programs while many youth and women are suffering from things like domestic violence. Mr. Carrera explained that Prop C was created to help people in situations like this and to end homelessness.

Chair Williams thanked the public commenters for sharing and noted that the Committee would like to send a letter to the Mayor's Office, Board of Supervisors (BOS), and Controller's Office regarding the Committee's challenges with filling empty Committee member seats.

There was discussion between the Committee and Deputy City Attorney, Kate Kimberlin, around the reasoning for rescinding the February vote. The Committee confirmed that this agenda item is not because the Committee disagrees with previously made recommendations but because the original vote was not valid due to the Vice Chair's conflict of interest and that future recommendations may be made in an appropriate manner.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

6) Discussion/Action Item
OCOH Committee Draft Budget Recommendations

Chair Williams and Vice Chair D'Antonio restated their concerns with having several empty seats and delays in appointing the members for these seats.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to send a letter to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and Controller's Office urging them to make appointments to the OCOH Oversight Committee. Member Walton seconded the motion.

Chair Williams opened public comment. There were no phone or in person comments.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

Ms. Mehlotra of the Controller's Office provided a presentation on the Draft Budget Recommendations proposed by Committee Liaisons, reiterating that the recommendations have carved out TAY funding from each service area due to Vice Chair D'Antonio's conflict of interest. The presentation is linked here: [OCOH Committee FY25 & FY26 Budget Recommendations with TAY Carveouts](#)

Vice Chair D'Antonio opened public comment.

Marnie Regan, on behalf of HESPA, gave a public comment voicing support of the draft recommendations. Ms. Regan stated that unhoused and unstably housed TAY providers are facing challenges with the anticipated 25 million dollar cut to DCYF TAY programs and that OEWD did not fund TAY workforce programs last year. Ms. Regan asked that the Mayor not make any additional cuts to TAY funds in the OCOH budget.

Solinna from the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. Solinna asked that the Committee not forget the homeless families and youth in need as they vote on recommendations for funding supportive programs.

Yessica Hernandez of the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. Ms. Hernandez shared that she was once homeless and that she still fears that she could become homeless again one day. She explained that there is a lot of trauma caused by homelessness and that it's important for programs to offer paths to housing and recovery.

Mercedes Bullock of the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. Ms. Bullock urged the Committee to ensure funds reach youth and families in need.

Miguel Carrera of the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. Mr. Carrera expressed concern that OCOH programs supporting youth and families will be cut.

There were no more in person or over the phone public comments.

Chair Williams noted that the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) cuts that are impacting providers are concerning and recommended these concerns be included in their letter.

Chair Williams opened Committee discussion on the agenda item and asked Member Walton to share any thoughts regarding his role filling in as the temporary Permanent Housing liaison.

Member Walton explained that in all of the liaison meetings he attended, it is clear that there are funding challenges across the board. The revenue volatility is projected beyond the two-year budget which

means there may not be sufficient funding to keep existing programs funded. Member Walton noted that while some funding may be surplus in the coming year, it will likely be needed to help sustain existing programs if and when the revenue falls short in future years. Member Walton stressed that the larger question is how to keep the programs going and not overspend in the next few years.

Member Friedenbach noted that there are funding shortfalls in several housing categories that the Committee should encourage the Mayor to find alternative funding sources for. Member Walton agreed.

Member Friedenbach, the liaison for Shelter and Hygiene service area, stated that a shortfall of \$7.4 million is projected to occur in three years in this service area. There is also an existing shortfall that is currently being covered by one-time revenue sources. Member Friedenbach added that there is a grant that could help fund this service, but that it's not confirmed yet. In terms of programs, there is a nice mix of population types being served and different types of housing included the plan.

Member Preston, liaison for the Prevention & Problem Solving service area, explained that the primary goal in this service area is to continue funding the existing programs as there are also projected shortfalls. It will be important to strategically assess these programs and their effectiveness in case of having to rollback any of them.

Member Friedenbach, liaison for the Mental Health service area, noted that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has been very transparent about shortfalls that will have to be addressed starting in year three. DPH is continuing to work towards bridging programs and funding to avoid cuts although the Committee may want to do special planning around this service area to gauge the effectiveness of existing programs going forward. Member Friedenbach added that while there is a larger systemic issue around behavioral health, progress is being made.

Member Walton made a motion to finalize the draft recommendations and Member Preston seconded.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to recuse Vice Chair D'Antonio to allow for the discussion around TAY funding recommendations. Member Preston seconded the motion.

After discussion around the need for recusal, Member Friedenbach withdrew her motion.

7) Discussion/Action Item
Officer Elections

Chair Williams asked if there were any nominations for Chair or Vice Chair.

Member Friedenbach nominated Chair Williams and Vice Chair D'Antonio to continue in their roles. Member Preston seconded the motion.

Chair Williams opened public comment. There were no in-person or over the phone public comments.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

8) Return to Agenda Item 5
***Recall of Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Housing Fund Allocation Proposal from February 8, 2024
Special Meeting***

Chair Williams asked to return to agenda item 5 regarding the TAY funding recommendations.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to reuse Vice Chair D'Antonio. Member Walton seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

Ms. Mehlotra shared the Committee's recommendations specifying uses for the unallocated Youth Housing funds.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to include these recommendations in the letter to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Member Walton seconded the motion.

Marnie Regan gave a public comment. Ms. Regan thanked the Committee for retaking the vote and acknowledged the importance of supporting the TAY population.

There were no additional in person or over the phone public comments.

Member Friedenbach noted that there will still be additional funding for TAY that can be voted on in a future time.

Member Walton noted that it will be important to consider future shortfalls and that it would not be wise to fund programs that may not have ongoing funding sources.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Recused

Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

Due to the change to the bylaws made during this meeting, which allowed a majority vote of four members when there are three or more vacancies on the committee, the motion passed.

The Committee's recommendations are outlined in the memo to the Mayor and BOS linked here: [OCOH Budget Recommendations for FY25 and FY26](#).

9) Discussion/Possible Action Item

Opportunity to propose future agenda items with discussion and possible action by the Committee

Item tabled due to loss of quorum.

10) Adjourn

The Committee lost quorum at the close of the return to agenda item 5, and no further action or discussion occurred. Without quorum, the Committee could not take a vote to adjourn.

Committee staff and members can be reached at OCOH.CON@sfgov.org