

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: January 16, 2024
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Advisory Body Status Update Reports

REPORT BY: Anne Hsu, City Clerk

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Advisory Bodies to the City Council include the Arts Committee, Climate Action Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Policing Commission, Racial Inclusivity & Social Equity Commission, and the Transportation Commission.

Per Council action in February 2015, the Council typically receives work plan presentations every two years. The review of the work plans is intended to highlight recent accomplishments and outline priority focus areas for each of the Advisory Bodies. The work plans are also intended to help further the Council's Strategic Plan and denote relativity to the Strategic Plan when applicable.

Due to the transitioning to student and student-affiliated seats on advisory bodies as well as ensuring full appointments to the advisory bodies, many of the advisory bodies had a slower than usual start for the beginning of the term. As such, reports have been prepared for each advisory body to provide a status update to the Council. This is intended to serve as a way of mid-term reporting to the Council on the overall work to date by advisory bodies. The status reports also denote items that the advisory body aims to work on in the remainder of their term. The advisory bodies have been working mainly on unfinished items based on their respective approved work plans from the prior term.

The Council received presentations and approved the submitted work plans from the [Policing Commission \(10/16/2023\)](#) and the [Racial Inclusivity & Social Equity Commission \(9/5/2023\)](#) since they are two newly established Commissions that did not have an approved work plan from the prior term. The Status Update Report for these two Commissions is not included given the newness of the workplans.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

Attachments

1. Status Update Report – Arts Committee
2. Status Update Report – Climate Action Committee
3. Status Update Report – Financial Advisory Committee
4. Status Update Report – Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission
5. Status Update Report – Planning & Zoning Commission
6. Status Update Report – Transportation Commission



CITY OF ALBANY ARTS COMMITTEE

STATUS UPDATE REPORT 2023

Purpose of the Arts Committee

The purpose of the Arts Committee is to advise the City Council on cultural and artistic matters within the City including the acquisition and placement of public art. The Committee adheres to the Public Arts Master Plan, the Art in Public Places Ordinance and the Public Arts Project Plan in order to support, develop and promote art in Albany and increase the economic vitality of the City.

Items Worked on During Calendar Year 2023

- Reviewed and updated Public Arts Master Plan Programs (completed)
 - Public Art Project – Creative Justice Art Project (in progress)
 - Sculpture Loan program (in progress)
 - Murals in Commercial District (in progress)
 - Heron restoration (in progress)
 - Community Projects “Set Aside Fund” (in progress)
- Selected items for Public Arts Projects Plan (completed)
- Selected artists for 2023/24 Foyer Gallery (in progress)
- Approved and Recommended Creative Justice Art Project to Council (completed)

Current Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- Foyer Art Gallery (standing subcommittee)
- Murals
- Sculpture Loan
- Arts Committee Marketing
- Heron Sculpture Restoration

Prospective Upcoming Work Items Furthering City Council Strategic Plan Goals

Continue working on items in progress from 2023



**CITY OF ALBANY
CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE**

**STATUS UPDATE REPORT
2023**

Purpose of the Climate Action Committee

The Climate Action Committee shall serve as a technical advisory committee regarding matters related to climate action and to advise Council on matters related to reducing greenhouse gasses; and adapting to climate change.

Items Worked on During Calendar Year 2023

- Consider programs and policies to incentivize electric vehicle use and active transit (in progress)
- Consider programs and policies to advance building electrification (in progress)
- Multifamily EV Charging Pilot Program (completed - program operating)
- Heat pump HVAC rebate program (completed - program operating)
- Tracking Key Performance Indicators for the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (ongoing)
- Provide input on Street Tree Management Plan (in progress)
- Provide input on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (completed)
- Develop a foodware ordinance for waste reduction (in progress)
- Encourage development of Climate Literacy Program (completed)

Current Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- Environmental Justice Subcommittee
- Student Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee
- Zero Emission Transportation Subcommittee
- Home Electrification Mandate Subcommittee

Prospective Upcoming Work Items Furthering City Council Strategic Plan Goals

- Develop and urge Council to adopt policies or programs to advance building electrification (Goal 1)
- Develop and urge Council to adopt policies or programs to expand electric vehicle infrastructure and incentivize active and public transit (Goals 1 and 3)
- Develop and urge Council to adopt foodware ordinance (Goal 1)



**CITY OF ALBANY
FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**STATUS UPDATE REPORT
2023**

Purpose of the Financial Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) is to enhance independent oversight and transparency of the City's finances. Further, the FAC was established to advise the City Council in financial matters including budgeting, audits, long-term financial planning, and financial sustainability.

Items Worked on During Calendar Year 2023

- Worked as a committee to identify methods of making financial reporting and data more accessible to the general public.
- Previewed proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 biennial budget ahead of presentation to City Council.
- FAC presented to City Council in May 2023 covering unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) for the pensions of the City. Reports on this topic included in the approved biennial budget.
- Created subcommittee for Dashboard Metrics/Key Performance Indicators. Subcommittee presented a draft report to entire FAC in June 2023.
- Assessed new Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 Policy Review and attended Council meeting on topic.
- Reviewed Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report ahead of presentation to City Council.
- Reviewed draft of City's Debt Management Policy ahead of City Council Review/Adoption. Provided input to include in and questions to consider ahead of final draft.

Current Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- Pension Subcommittee
- Revenue Subcommittee
- Dashboard Metrics Subcommittee

Prospective Upcoming Work Items Furthering City Council Strategic Plan Goals

- Pension Funding Policy (Identify funding and strategies to manage unfunded pension liabilities)
- Identify mechanisms of generating revenue to fund city services. (Increase Revenue to Sustain City Services)



**CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE
COMMISSION**

**STATUS UPDATE REPORT
2023**

Purpose of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission

The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission advises the City Council on public recreation, parks, open spaces, street trees, parking strips, parkways, squares and similar areas within the City of Albany.

Items Worked on During Calendar Year 2023

- Reviewed 11 Street Tree removal applications (*completed*).
 - 7 Recommended for removal.
 - 4 Retained (1 removed on appeal to the Council).
- Review draft RFP for consulting services for the Street Tree Management Plan and participate in selection of consultant (*completed*).
- Reviewed options for a pilot volleyball program at Memorial Park and made recommendations to Council to authorize the program (*completed*).
- Received presentation on final street tree inventory and its use in tree risk assessment (*completed*).
- Recommended proposals to Council for use of Soda Tax revenue (*completed*).
- Received presentation by Eagle Scout candidate for a handrail project along the Oak Woodland Trail on Albany Hill (*completed*).
- Received Staff presentation on parks operations and management, natural areas management storm response and design of a pilot curb and gutter passthrough bulbout (*completed*).
- Reviewed and provided input on Prop 68/Measure M Funded Projects (*in-progress*).
- Received presentation on an assessment of the Solano Ave Eucalyptus Trees (*Eucalyptus nicholii*) and recommended removal of 3 of the 27 trees (*completed*).
- Received presentation on Fair Play in Community Sports Act (AB2404) (*completed*)

Current Ad Hoc Subcommittees

- Flex Court Subcommittee

Prospective Upcoming Work Items Furthering City Council Strategic Plan Goals

The following work items align with Strategic Plan Goal 1 – Advance Climate Action & Adaptation (Goal: Identify opportunities to enhance City program for management of street trees):

- Review and provide recommendation on tree removal applications (4x annually)
- Review and provide input/recommendations on the Street Tree Management Plan



**CITY OF ALBANY
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

**STATUS UPDATE REPORT
2023**

Purpose of the Planning & Zoning Commission

The Planning & Zoning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding all provisions of the General Plan, advises the City Council regarding the physical development of the City, and exercises functions with respect to land subdivisions, planning, and zoning as specified by Planning and Zoning Code and as set forth in the State Government Code and by the California Environmental Quality Act.

Items Worked on During Calendar Year 2023

Project Development

The Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed and approved the following development permits during the year:

- 23 Design Review applications for Residential Additions and accessory structures, one of which included a parking exception
- One Design Review for a new three-dwelling unit in-fill project
- Three Use Permits for commercial uses (wine shop, day care, Foodieland event)
- Three Parklets for restaurants on Solano
- Two Parcel Maps

Long Range/Policy Planning

In addition, the Commission reviewed, heard public comment, provided input and recommendation to Council on the following:

- 2023-2031 Housing Element
- Parking Ordinance and General Plan amendments in response to AB 2097
- Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance amendments in response to myriad changes in state law
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update (study session only)

Current Ad Hoc Subcommittees

None.

Prospective Upcoming Work Items Furthering City Council Strategic Plan Goals

As the Planning & Zoning Commission continues its work in reviewing and approving development applications, as well as providing input and direction on Zoning Ordinance revisions to further facilitate housing production, the Commission will continue to further the City Council Strategic Plan **Goal 2 to Promote Housing Availability & Quality**. In addition, potential work plan items as expressed by the Commissioners could further Council Strategic Plan **Goal 1 to Advance Climate Action & Adaptation** and **Goal 3 to Promote Streets that Support Safety & Transportation Mobility Options**.

In the upcoming year, Commissioners expressed desire to work on the following items:

- Creating citywide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) standards
- Updating bicycle parking numerical and safety standards for new development and temporary events
- Upzoning citywide to facilitate creation of new housing
- Tackling Waterfront Measure C and Albany Measure K to allow future commercial revenue sources and residential development
- Reviewing need for Floor Area Ratio (FAR) requirements
- Establishing objective design standards
- Developing economic vitality measures along Solano and San Pablo Avenues
- Establishing standards for drought tolerant planting, particularly in front yards
- Adopting Green Building and energy efficiency standards



CITY OF ALBANY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STATUS UPDATE REPORT 2023

Purpose of the Transportation Commission

The Transportation Commission advises the City Council on transportation policy and project planning and design on City-owned right-of-way.

Items Worked on During Calendar Year 2023

- Regular review of collision and shared mobility data (ongoing)
- Albany Sidewalk Repair Program (Phase 7 completed, Phase 8 in progress)
- Local Roadway Safety Plan (completed)
- Recommendations for Proposed Use of Soda Tax Revenue (completed)
- Pavement Maintenance Program (2023 Slurry Seal Project in progress)
- Santa Fe/Key Route intersection concept design (in progress)
- Intersection Red Curb Policy Update (completed)
- Alameda CTC San Pablo Avenue Corridor Projects (in progress)
- Proposed Amendments to Off-Street Parking Requirements (completed)
- Street Lighting Evaluation (in progress)
- Jackson Street Bikeway (in progress)
- Kains and Adams Bikeway Pilot (in progress)

Current Ad Hoc Subcommittees

None.

Prospective Upcoming Work Items Furthering City Council Strategic Plan Goals

Council Strategic Plan Goal 3 – Promote Streets that Support Safety & Transportation Mobility Options

- Active Transportation Plan update (also supports Goal 1 – Advance Climate Action and Adaptation / vehicle miles traveled reduction goal)
- Traffic Calming Program
- Conduct citywide street traffic surveys to obtain objective data to prioritize traffic calming
- Explore opportunities for shuttle service to connect community to business areas