

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES  
OF THE  
SALINAS PLANNING COMMISSION  
July 3, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. in the City Council Chamber Rotunda.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**WELCOME AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chairperson Meeks and Commissioners Burrola, McKelvey Daye, Purnell, and Ramos

**ABSENT:** Chairperson Gonzalez and Commissioner Manzo

**STAFF:** Community Development Director, Lisa Brinton; Planning Manager, Courtney Grossman; Senior Planner, Monica Gurmilan; and Administrative Aide, Maira Robles

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Vice-Chairperson Meeks opened for public comment at 4:02 p.m.

No public comments were received.

Vice-Chairperson Meeks closed for public comment at 4:02 p.m.

**CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: JUNE 5, 2024**

Upon motion by Commissioner Burrola, and a second by Commissioner Ramos, the minutes of June 5, 2024, were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**AYES:** Vice-Chairperson Meeks and Commissioners Burrola, McKelvey Daye, Purnell, and Ramos

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Chairperson Gonzalez and Commissioner Manzo

## CONSIDERATIONS

Vice-Chairperson Meeks nominated Commissioner McKelvey Daye to serve as Chairperson to the Salinas Planning Commission. Commissioner Purnell seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Vice-Chairperson Meeks and Commissioners Burrola, McKelvey Daye, Ramos, and Purnell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Chairperson Gonzalez and Commissioner Manzo

Commissioner McKelvey Daye nominated Commissioner Purnell to serve as Vice-Chairperson to the Salinas Planning Commission. Commissioner Burrola seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Vice-Chairperson Meeks and Commissioners Burrola, McKelvey Daye, Ramos, and Purnell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Chairperson Gonzalez and Commissioner Manzo

Commissioner McKelvey Daye motioned that Chairperson Gonzalez remain as the primary appointee to the General Plan Steering Committee. Commissioner Burrola seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Vice-Chairperson Meeks and Commissioners Burrola, McKelvey Daye, Ramos, and Purnell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Chairperson Gonzalez and Commissioner Manzo

Vice-Chairperson Meeks motioned that Commissioner Purnell remain as the alternate to the General Plan Steering Committee. Commissioner Burrola seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Vice-Chairperson Meeks and Commissioners Burrola, McKelvey Daye, Ramos, and Purnell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Chairperson Gonzalez and Commissioner Manzo

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **General Plan Update/Visión Salinas 2040: Public Safety and Health and Environmental Justice Study Session**

Monica Gurmilan, Senior Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation, which is on file at the Community Development Department.

Commissioner Burrola commended City staff on their outreach efforts in promoting public engagement and inquired about the policy implementation process; specifically as it relates to the Environmental Justice Element.

Lisa Brinton, Community Development Director, informed that policy prioritization and implementation will be guided by City Council directives. In early 2025, City Council will also present their Strategic Plan, which will serve as a guiding document for identifying priorities and outlining goals.

Commissioner Burrola inquired about the Health and Environmental Justice Goal No. 3.2.4; and asked if the City currently sponsors any community gardens.

Ms. Brinton informed that a community garden is located at the Natividad Creek Park. The Library and Community Services (LCS), with the assistance of an AmeriCorps VISTA, spent a year conducting research and identifying best practices for community gardens and promoting farmer's markets.

Commissioner Burrola inquired about the Health and Environmental Justice Goal No. 4.1.2 and 4.2.3; specifically inquiring if there is intentionality for creating funding sources vs. connecting individuals to funding sources as outlined in the Environmental Justice Goals document.

Ms. Gurmilan indicated that these goals and policies are sequential and actionable plans could entail a combination of connecting individuals to resources or programs as well as providing direct financial support.

Ms. Brinton acknowledged Commissioner Burrola's inquiry as this is the first review of the draft document and it is important to set defined and measurable goals.

Commissioner Burrola inquired about the Health and Environmental Justice Goal No. 5.2; specifically inquiring if there is a program to encourage bicycle use, such as reimbursement for the purchasing of equipment.

Ms. Gurmilan indicated that City staff is currently working on the Active Transportation Plan which will address safety and trail improvements, however, is not aware of any programs that may provide financial assistance for the purchasing of bicycles.

Commissioner Burrola encouraged staff review the availability of financial programs in an effort to encourage bicycle use as an alternate travel mode for City residents.

Due to the priority request for accessibility to health care as expressed by the community, Commissioner Burrola inquired if a discussion occurred between the City and agencies, other than the County, such as the Salinas Valley Health Blue Zones Project.

Ms. Gurmilan indicated that the Blue Zones Project is included in the City's narrative, however, most of the work to address the request for access to health care is a partnership between the City and the County.

Commissioner Burrola inquired about the stakeholders involved in the Library and Community Services' Community Alliance for Safety and Peace (CASP).

Ms. Gurmilan informed that this group is composed of City staff, such as LCS and Neighborhood Services, outside agencies, and youth engagement.

Commissioner McKelvey Daye inquired if the public safety engagement data as reported reflects only in-person public contact.

Ms. Gurmilan indicated that the public engagement data is a combination of direct public contact and surveys, however, the majority of the feedback was gathered at in-person events.

Commissioner McKelvey Daye commended City's staff decision to hold separate public engagement meetings for English and Spanish speakers.

Commissioner McKelvey Daye also commended the City's effort to identify and work in partnership with existing efforts, such as the Blue Zones Project, which are already established and share the vision of promoting healthier lifestyles for all County residents.

Additionally, Commissioner McKelvey Daye encouraged the accessibility of recreational resources to the community as part of the action plan to address the Health and Environmental Justice Goal No. 5.

Commissioner Purnell inquired about the accountability and measurable metrics in place to ensure that the goals as presented in the Public Safety and Health and Environmental Plan, are accomplished.

Ms. Brinton informed that the General Plan is a high-level guiding document for planning of future development and programs. Furthermore, staff is required to submit an Annual Report to the State which will identify the City's progress toward achieving goals.

Commissioner Purnell inquired about the City's approach, with regard to budget allocation, to ensure that there is adequate funding to allow for continued implementation of the plan's policies.

Ms. Brinton indicated that this document will serve as the City's guiding principles for the next twenty years, therefore, staff will need to identify priorities and continuously review for funding opportunities to keep the plan moving forward.

Commissioner Purnell inquired about the number of youth residents involved in gathering feedback and promoting student engagement.

Ms. Gurmilan informed that a significant effort to promote youth engagement was supported by the Center for Community Advocacy (CCA), it involved 5 students, and all outreach was conducted at school sites.

Commissioner Purnell stated that there is ample opportunity for the City to collaborate with schools to pursue additional funding opportunities.

Ms. Gurmilan acknowledged Commissioner Purnell's comment regarding the importance of expanding collaboration with the County, school districts, other agencies, and community organizations.

Commissioner Ramos commented on the importance of pedestrian safety and improvements to crosswalks located near school sites. Additionally, Commissioner Ramos requested that staff review and consider the harmful impact of pesticide exposure of residents who live near agricultural lands and students who attend school sites that are in proximity to agricultural land.

Ms. Gurmilan acknowledged Commissioner Ramos' comment and indicated that the City is striving to support partnerships and collaborate with outside agencies and organizations to support accessibility to resource information.

Vice-Chairperson Meeks requested staff consider revisions to the grammatical structure of Health and Environmental Justice Goal No. 2.

Vice-Chairperson Meeks indicated that most East Salinas residents require the use of a vehicles as a mode of transportation to and from job sites and added that although bicycle lane guards have been installed, project contractors have not observed cyclists utilizing these resources.

Commissioner Burrola inquired if the City is currently providing outreach and services to unsheltered individuals.

Ms. Brinton provided information regarding the City’s Street Outreach and Response Team (SORT), who works with unhoused individuals and connects them to resources. Additionally, Ms. Brinton informed of the following programs: the City’s partnership with the County to fund the SHARE Center, the Chinatown Navigation Center, and an emergency motel program on John Street. Ms. Brinton also indicated that the City has been awarded grant funding for the acquisition of single family residences for the purpose of assisting individuals transition from short-term to long-term housing.

Commissioner Burrola commended the City’s efforts of prioritizing assistance to unsheltered individuals and asked if the City utilizes the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database.

Ms. Brinton confirmed that the City utilizes the HMIS database.

Both Commissioner Purnell and Vice-Chairperson Meeks commended staff’s work on the City’s Public Safety and Health and Environmental Justice Element and thanked Ms. Gurmilan for her presentation.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**General Plan Steering Committee Update**

Ms. Brinton informed that the next committee meeting will include a draft public document review.

**FOLLOW-UP REPORTS**

No follow-up reports were discussed.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Courtney Grossman, Planning Manager, informed that the following items are scheduled for presentation to the Planning Commission on July 17, 2024: a Tentative Map for the Central Area Specific Plan (CASP) and a Draft of the Alisal District Identity Master Plan (ADIMP).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chairperson Meeks reviewed for quorum for the July 17, 2024, meeting and adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

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LORISA MCKELVEY DAYE  
Chairperson

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COURTNEY GROSSMAN  
Executive Secretary