



City of Sunnyvale

Meeting Minutes - Draft Heritage Preservation Commission

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

7:00 PM

Online and Redwood Conference Room,
City Hall, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale,
CA 94086

Public Participation

7 P.M. HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garrett called the meeting to order.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Garrett led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Chair William Garrett
Vice Chair Pamela Sharma
Commissioner Sue-Ellen Johnson
Commissioner Charles McManis
Commissioner Parthiv Rawal
Commissioner Aaron Sofaer
Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ashmita Rajkumar

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [25-1026](#) Approve the Draft Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2025

Commissioner Johnson moved and Commissioner McManis seconded to approve the Consent Calendar, including the Draft Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2025, as submitted.

Yes: 6 - Chair Garrett
Vice Chair Sharma
Commissioner Johnson
Commissioner McManis
Commissioner Rawal
Commissioner Sofaer

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Rajkumar

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [25-1008](#) Preliminary Direction on the Study to Update the Historical Context Statement to Include Historical Contributions Made by Asian Americans and Other Minority Groups (Study Issue CDD 19-04)
File #: PLNG-2024-0485
Environmental Review: The action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306.
Project Planner: Bonnie Filipovic, (408) 730-7462, bfilipovic@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Stacy Farr, representing Architectural Resources Group (ARG), the City's study consultant, provided a slide presentation on the staff report.

Comm. McManis asked staff what the work product would be at the end of the study and noted that the library should have a place where plaques and other memorabilia can live to honor the contributions. He then noted that the Statement should also include the views of people who were directly impacted by Japanese and Japanese American incarceration and others who have been historically marginalized.

Ms. Farr responded that their intention is to reach out to community groups to learn more about these experiences.

Comm. Sofaer noted that a 1990 year cut off makes sense, and asked if other non-ethnic minority groups such as religious groups and queer communities would be included.

Comm. Johnson noted that the effort is to study ethnic minorities.

Administrative Aide Bonnie Filipovic stated that there are cultural differences such

as religion among the different ethnic groups that would be studied but that the scope is focused on the ethnic groups themselves. She added that these points could be recommended for future study.

Vice Chair Sharma appreciated the discussion and asked about the timeline and scope of this study. She suggested exploring research on Southern Asians, such as Indo Americans. She also asked how other cities have recognized significant resources, particularly ones that have been demolished. She added that it would be nice for the updated Statement to be incorporated into the Sunnyvale school curriculum.

Comm. Johnson asked about the contributions of South Asians pre-1990. She commented that the term Asian Americans in the study is only referring to Chinese and Japanese Americans. She stated her understanding that Sunnyvale was friendly towards all Asian Americans. She recommended that staff reach out to the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum for information on those affected and impacted by Japanese and Japanese-American incarceration.

Comm. McManis noted that these Statements are needed in order to learn from the past.

Comm. Raval asked about extending the timeline to 2000 to account for the whole century. Ms. Farr stated that the timeline could be extended with a subsequent update to the Statement.

Chair Garrett noted that a review every 10 years would be good idea.

Comm. Sofaer asked if the Statement would address how to recognize a location related to significant contributions if the physical property is no longer there. She further discussed media channels such as the City's Horizon newsletter and social media accounts.

Vice Chair Sharma acknowledged the 1990 cut off year for the study. She asked how the research will be conducted and how this information will be disseminated to the public. She stated she wants clear and researched information on immigration.

Ms. Farr stated that part of the research includes information on immigration related to H-1B visas.

Ms. Farr noted that there will be an educational component to the study.

Chair Garrett stated that a summary about the updated Statement could be included in the Horizon newsletter and added that it would be good to have markers of importance when there are issues concerning the physical integrity of resources.

Comm. Sharma stated that she is hesitant to recommend historical resource designation if it interferes with future development or a property owners' comfort level.

Senior Planner Momoko Ishijima stated that staff is leaning towards recognition instead of designation for the City's similar study to identify resources associated with technological innovations that have taken place in Sunnyvale.

Comm. Rawal noted that it is important for the public to be respectful of these resources and cited the example of Apple, Inc. founder Steve Jobs' residence that was listed as a heritage site in Palo Alto.

Comm. Johnson asked how physical items might be recognized. Senior Planner Ishijima stated that they would most likely be recognized with a plaque but could be done in other ways such as with art.

Chair Garrett asked about narrowing down ethnic groups and nationalities in the research.

Ms. Farr noted that they are researching to determine what, if any, other Asian Americans should or can be included. She added that it is difficult to find information on individuals prior to 1900.

Comm. Sharma agreed that the updated Statement and heritage resource information should be available at the Sunnyvale library.

Comm. Sofaer added that ephemeral heritage resource sites should be recognized elsewhere such as at the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum or a new location, if one exists.

ARG representative Sarah Hahn asked for suggestions on individuals or groups to interview or for any further ideas.

Administrative Aide Filipovic stated that staff makes no recommendation, and the purpose of the report is solely to facilitate Heritage Preservation Commission discussion to help refine the focus of the study.

3. [25-1024](#) Approve the Draft Heritage Preservation Commission 2026 Master Work Plan.

MOTION:

Commissioner Sofaer moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded to approve the 2026 Draft Heritage Preservation Commission Master Work Plan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chair Garrett
 Vice Chair Sharma
 Commissioner Johnson
 Commissioner McManis
 Commissioner Rawal
 Commissioner Sofaer

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Rajkumar

4. [25-1025](#) Annual Review of Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials

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Commissioners acknowledged their review of the Annual Code of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials.

5. [25-1052](#) Discussion and Possible Recommendation of One Council Priority Project Idea to the City Council

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Community Development Department Director Trudi Ryan noted that the previous Study Issue titled OCM 25 01 has been approved by the City Council.

Comm. Sofaer noted the importance to conduct a comprehensive update of the Heritage Inventory List.

Commissioner Sharma noted that the study issue to expand the role of the Heritage Preservation could include to partner with other commissions, like Arts Commission.

Mayor Klein discussed the new Council Policy Project Ideas.

Comm. Johnson noted the importance of CDD 25 04 Expanding the Role of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Commissioner Sofaer asked about the financing of Study Issue CDD 18 02: Update and Review of the Heritage Resource Inventory.

Chair Garrett asked staff for reasons of the study issues not getting approved and Ms. Ryan replied that she does not have any specifics at this time; however noted that priorities, workload, and funding are factors in the decision making process for approval. Vice Chair Sharma noted some references she recalls were that other study issues outside of the Heritage Preservations' took precedence or more importance in the approval process.

Comm. Sofaer asked if CDD 18 02: Update and Review of the Heritage Resource Inventory study include the inventory of auditing the current list and then adding new ones.

Mayor Klein noted that Community Development has had a large workload and the budget for this study has also affected its warrant for study.

Ms. Ryan commented that the staff report noted that this study issue could be incorporated with other study issues.

Comm. Sofaer asked staff if the Technological Study Issue and Update to the Heritage Resource Inventory to combine potential resources associated with technological innovation, and Ms. Ryan replied yes.

Comm. Sofaer discussed how other cities their heritage resources.

Chair Garrett acknowledged Comm. Sofaer's comments and would be agreeable to her ideas.

Ms. Ishijima clarified Commissioner Sofaer's idea regarding the Inventory List, and Commissioner Sofaer clarified that the current Inventory should be re evaluated.

Ms. Ishijima noted that the list includes landmarks, locations, and trees and asked to elaborate.

Vice Chair Sharma asked staff how the process would be if several study issues would be incorporated and if there would be a partial approval for certain parts or would it be approved or denied as a whole idea and Ms. Ryan responded that the Commission should provide a write up of their Council Priority Project (CPP).

MOTION:

Commissioner Sofaer moved and Vice Chair Sharma seconded to place item 25 1052 on the next regular meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chair Garrett
Vice Chair Sharma
Commissioner Johnson
Commissioner McManis
Commissioner Rawal
Commissioner Sofaer

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Rajkumar

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

-Commissioner Comments

Mayor Klein discussed Heritage Orchard's future and possible additional uses.

-Staff Comments

Mr. Schroeder announced his appointment to the City of Mountain View and thanked the Commission.

INFORMATION ONLY REPORTS/ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garrett adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Public Participation Options

In person public comment:

Online participation:

Online public comment:

Written public comment:

Public review of items:

Planning a presentation for a Heritage Preservation Commission meeting?

Planning to provide materials to the Commission?

Request Language Translation

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