

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Clark introduced Brad Vedula, the new permit center manager.

Mr. Vedula stated his previous work experience included permit counter manager in Santa Clara for 16 months, and permit center supervisor for the city of Bakersfield where he was responsible for code compliance. In Bakersfield, different complexities of the job prompted Mr. Vedula to create processes to meet customer's tight schedules. Additionally, Mr. Vedula stated he has over 4.5 years public sector experience, more than 10 years private experience, and 15.5 years experience in the field of engineering and customer service orientation. His motto is to provide safe structures for clients. While many may say government standards are strict, they are put in place to protect the customer and to prevent the of loss of life.

Yonghong Shen, mechanical engineer, introduced herself and stated she has 25 years experience. She currently works for AECOM, a contractor for the NASA Ames engineering branch. She has been a Sunnyvale resident for 28 years and loves the city. Ms. Shen stated she applied to the position to volunteer to help the community.

Mike Michitaka introduced himself, stating he has been a Sunnyvale resident for 28 years. Mr. Michitaka started his career in civil engineering installing turbines and generators in Vancouver and believes the council picked him for his past experience. He is currently debating his A license, as he was responsible for managing large general contractors. He is a current member of the Sunnyvale Heritage Preservation Commission as well as an executive advisor for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Committee.

Joshua Grossman, current Chair of the Housing and Human Services Commission, works as an attorney in marketing for tech firms. He stated he applied to this position because he felt it helpful for the board to have a different perspective. He is primarily interested in public service.

Marc Ketzel introduced himself as having lived in Sunnyvale for 33 years. His career background is in human resources for various high tech companies including Xerox, Yahoo, Samsung and Silicon Graphics. He was interested in this position for a number of reasons, but primarily for public service. He was involved with Samsung moving from north San Jose to a new complex in Mountain View and believes he can leverage that experience here in Sunnyvale.

Mr. Clark called for the board to elect a chair.

Mr. Clark elaborated on duties of the commission chair stating that if a customer disagrees with the Building Official's code interpretation, they can appeal to the board. Rarity of appeals he felt was due to officials finding solutions without changing the intent of the code and a priority to protect the property. A person can also appeal if an official refuses issuance of a permit. In cases of code enforcement issues such as an unpermitted buildings, staff will request a customer apply for a permit. Staff makes every attempt to get it legalized.

If planning determines the zoning code does not allow for the continued use of an unpermitted structure, the customer needs to apply for a demolition permit to remove the structure. Building staff will contact the structure owner for further steps. If attempts to communicate such as postings, calls or mail do or are ignored, staff will get a right of entry warrant, then contact the police department and/or sheriff to assist to gain entry and document the unpermitted work. Building staff will then once more attempt to contact the property owner and if ignored, will return onsite with contractors to remove the unpermitted building. If zoning does allow the use, building division needs to approve plans before permits are issued.

Mr. Michitaka stated that if there were no volunteers, he would take the position of chair. All members unanimously voted for Mr. Michitaka.

Josh Grossman nominated himself and was unanimously voted Vice Chair.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS & COMMENTS

Chair Michitaka inquired if there were any further comments from staff.

Mr. Grossman inquired if there were any current appeals.

Mr. Clark stated there were none.

Ray Crump, a member of the public and a Sunnyvale resident for 49 years, inquired was about the frequency of the appeal board meetings.

Mr. Clark stated there have been no appeals in the last 4 years.

Mr. Crump's inquired what the current behavior of private homeowners or contractors are relative to obtaining permits to do work.

Mr. Clark stated most clients do not know the processes for a permit or whether they need permits. As an example, he stated many did not know that water heaters need permits. Having worked in several jurisdictions, Mr. Clark said he had not seen many complaints in his short time at Sunnyvale, but that most complaints go to Neighborhood Preservation, as the main code enforcement division.

Mr. Crump inquired as to how value is determined for new buildings.

Mr. Clark directed Mr. Crump to email him as he did not have his fee book with him, or Mr. Crump could come in the office when open and get a fee book.

-Board Member Comments

-Staff Comments

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further questions from the public, Chair Michitaka closed the hearing at 6:21 PM