

# Housing Element Community Engagement and Outreach Committee



## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** 5/27/2021  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Zoom.us/join – ID# 978 0188 5004

All members present except Member Dao.

Link to May 27, 2021 Meeting Agenda and Materials:  
[https://www.menlopark.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/\\_05272021-3620](https://www.menlopark.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_05272021-3620)

Link to May 27, 2021 Meeting Video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxTVdrIpaEw>

The first meeting for the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee (CEOC) took place on May 27, 2021. Members and city staff had the opportunity to introduce themselves and discuss issues that were important to them.

The group was composed of diverse members across different City Council Districts in Menlo Park. Two vacant spots were held for District 5. The length of residency within the city varied anywhere from a couple of months to twenty plus years. Members expressed interest to become more involved with the city and to promote equity on all levels of housing. A common interest among the members was to be an advocate for the residents of Menlo Park.

### Training Provided by the City Clerk

The City Clerk provided a training presentation that discussed the basics of the Brown Act, agenda, meetings, and Robert's Rules. The Brown Act essentially states that all meetings are to be open and available to the public. Agenda material for each CEOC meeting is generally prepared by the project team. Meetings must establish a quorum (eight or more members present) to be conducted and members of the public have the right to comment on items. The basics of Robert's Rules of Order is a guide for conducting meetings and making decisions as a group.

The presentation also covered the roles and responsibilities of the CEOC as a collective body and for each individual member. The primary responsibilities of this committee are to encourage residents to participate, provide feedback to staff on the proposed engagement and outreach plan, and act as a community resource on matters related to community engagement and outreach for the Housing Element.

### Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The CEOC elected Max Fennell as Chair and Nehezi Ollarvia as Vice Chair.

### Community Engagement Presentation Provided by M-Group

The meeting then transitioned into a presentation led by M-Group on the topic of community engagement. In this presentation, M-Group covered the new Environmental Justice Element and updates to the Housing Element and Safety Element.

### Summary of Questions from CEOC Members

- Housing Element components, including Menlo Park's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) number, both current and projected, affirmatively furthering fair housing, income categories, and population and census data
- Approved and pending projects such as Stanford's project along El Camino Real and the proposed housing at Willow Village along Willow Road
- What information would be helpful for decision making?

### Summary of Comments from CEOC Members

- Concern that affordable housing is a challenge
- Concern that housing is being used by equity/investment firms and Airbnb in Menlo Park
- Inclusive housing would need minds to change
- City leadership is needed
- Option of using religious organizations' parking lots for housing is good
- Consider an alternative to the term "affordable housing"

The meeting was continued to June 10, 2021.

Approved by the Menlo Park Community Engagement & Outreach Committee (CEOC) on July 15, 2021