

ORDINANCE NO. 2536

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDWOOD CITY AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), SECTION 2.110 (ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE) TO UPDATE MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR PROJECT REVIEW FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

WHEREAS, the Redwood City Municipal Code (“City Code”) Chapter 2 (Administration), Article IX (Boards, Commissions, and Committees), Section 2.110 (Architectural Advisory Committee) provides general objectives, member qualifications, powers and duties, and terms of membership for Architectural Advisory Committee members; and

WHEREAS, current membership eligibility requirements are onerous and have resulted in multiple failed recruitments to fill vacant Committee seats; and

WHEREAS, current criteria for project review is subjective and the City desires to update it to be objective and consistent with State law requirements for residential development review; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Redwood City is empowered to amend the Municipal Code to update membership eligibility requirements in order to fill vacant Committee seats and update criteria for project review to be objective (“Amendments to the Municipal Code”); and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2023, the City Council Governance Sub-Committee discussed, in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Redwood City Municipal Code, Amendments to the Municipal Code and directed staff to seek feedback from the Architectural Advisory Committee on the proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Architectural Advisory Committee held a study session to evaluate proposed Amendments to Municipal Code and provide feedback; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, the City Council Governance Sub-Committee discussed, in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Redwood City Municipal Code, Amendments to the Municipal Code, and provided a recommendation to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2024, and May 6, 2024, the City Council considered the proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code at open and public meetings, during which all interested persons were given an opportunity to comment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDWOOD CITY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein by this reference as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. Findings. The City Council hereby finds that the proposed amendments to the City Code are in the public interest and consistent with the Redwood City General Plan.

Section 3. Adoption of Ordinance. The City Council of the City of Redwood City hereby adopts the following amendments to the City Code as provide in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated by reference, by adding the text shown in underline (example) and deleting the text shown in strikeout (~~example~~), as shown below. Wording in brackets ([example]) is informational only and is not to be included in the published ordinance.

Section 4. CEQA. The proposed Ordinance is not a project within the meaning of section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, either directly or ultimately. In the event that this Ordinance is found to be a project under CEQA, it is subject to the CEQA exemption and contained in CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty to have no possibility of significant effect on the environment.

Section 5. Severability. If any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is rendered or declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences or words of this Ordinance, and their application to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect and, to that end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall go into effect 30 days following its adoption.

Section 7. Publication. The City Clerk shall publish this Ordinance in accordance with applicable law.

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Exhibit "A"

MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENTS

Sec. 2.110. ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- A. Established; General Objectives. There is hereby established an Architectural Advisory Committee. The general objectives of the Architectural Advisory Committee shall be to provide architectural control for the enhancement of the natural beauty of the environment, to provide the orderly and harmonious appearance of structures and grounds in furtherance of the purpose of Article 45 of the Redwood City Zoning Ordinance, and to obtain perspective from professionals in architectural and related matters.
- B. Composition; Qualifications of Members.
1. The Architectural Advisory Committee shall consist of six (6) ~~five (5)~~ members. Five (5) members shall be voting members and count toward the quorum of the Committee ("Voting Members"). A Youth Member may be appointed to a non-voting seat on the Architectural Advisory Committee and will not count towards the quorum of the Committee. All five (5) members shall be licensed architects or landscape architects residing or working in the City, or its sphere of influence (as described by and in the General Plan of the City).
 2. ~~The m~~Members of the Architectural Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Planning Commission following oral interview and in consideration of professional qualifications and civic interests as the Planning Commission deems appropriate. In the event that a seat remains vacant following a failed recruitment, the Community Development Director, in consultation with the Planning Commission Chair, may appoint members to the Architectural Advisory Committee.
 3. Voting Members must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
 4. Not less than three (3) Voting Members shall, at the time of their appointment and continuously during their incumbencies, reside or work in Redwood City or within 20 miles of Redwood City's jurisdictional boundary . Up to two (2) Voting Members shall have no locational restrictions.
 5. Voting Members shall be eligible to serve on the Architectural Advisory Committee if they meet at least one of the following qualifications:
 - a. They possess a license in architecture or landscape architecture; or

b. They have a minimum of 5 years verifiable professional work experience in the residential or commercial design field in an architecture, landscape architecture, or urban design role; or

c. They have experience in a design related field, including without limitation, civil engineering or construction (“Design Related Professional”). Not more than one (1) of the Voting Members may be a Design Related Professional.

6. The Youth Member shall be eligible to serve on the Architectural Advisory Committee if they meet all of the following qualifications:

a. They are 16 to 25 years old at the time of appointment;

b. They live, attend school, or work in Redwood City or within 20 miles of Redwood City’s jurisdictional boundary; and

c. They have a demonstrated interest in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, or any other design related field.

C. Terms of Member. The term of office for each member of the Architectural Advisory Committee shall be four (4) years, expiring on May 31 of the fourth year; provided, however, that appointments of the Committee shall be made such that terms shall expire in even-numbered years.

D. Powers and Duties.

1. The Architectural Advisory Committee shall advise the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, and the City Council on certain architectural ~~matters~~ matters concerning building architecture and urban design, on projects. ~~The Architectural Advisory Committee shall, as designated by the Community Developer Director, which generally shall be large or sensitive projects where architectural elements are significant and additional community input is desired.~~

a. Review new building construction exceeding three stories or 35 ft. in height.

b. Review requests for Downtown Precise Plan Guideline deviations, in accordance with the Downtown Precise Plan.

c. Review projects as otherwise required by the Municipal Code, Zoning Ordinance, or adopted precise plan.

2. The authority of the Architectural Advisory Committee shall be limited to making recommendations in accordance with the foregoing and the Committee shall not be vested with authority to grant or deny any entitlement or approval.

* * *

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At a Joint City Council/Successor Agency Board/Public Financing Authority Meeting thereof held on the 6th day of May 2024 by the following votes:

AYES, and in favor of the passage and adoption of the foregoing ordinance:

AYES: Aguirre, Eakin, Martinez Saballos, Sturken, Vice Mayor Espinoza-Garnica and Mayor Gee

NOES: None

ABSENT: Howard

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSED: None



Jeff Gee
Mayor of the City of Redwood City



Yessika Castro, CMC, CPMC
City Clerk of Redwood City

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance
this 7th day of May 2024.



Jeff Gee
Mayor of the City of Redwood City