

City of Fresno

Ted C Wills
770 N. San Pablo Ave.
Fresno, CA 93728



Meeting Minutes - Final-revised

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

5:30 PM

Special Meeting

City Hall, Room 2165

Tower District Specific Plan Implementation

Committee

Chairperson - Christopher Johnson

Vice Chair - Janay Conley

Board Member - Annie Lokrantz

Board Member - Michael Birdsong

Board Member - Myra Coble

Board Member - James Kitch

Board Member - Joseph Catania

THE COMMITTEE WELCOMES YOU TO FRESNO CITY HALL, LOCATED AT 2600 FRESNO STREET, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721, ROOM 2165.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Any interested person may appear at the public hearing and present written testimony or speak in favor or against the matters scheduled on the agenda. Public participation during Tower District Specific Plan Implementation Committee meetings is always encouraged and can occur by attending a meeting in City Hall room 2165 located at 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93721.

When called to speak during a meeting, you may approach the speaker podium upon the Chair's call for any additional public comment. Unless otherwise announced, all public speakers will have up to 3 minutes to address the Committee.

SUBMIT DOCUMENTS / WRITTEN COMMENTS –

Email – Agenda related documents and comments can be emailed to the Long Range Planning Division. Unless otherwise required by law to be accepted by the City at or prior to a Committee meeting, no documents shall be accepted for Committee review unless they are submitted to the Long Range Planning Division at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting at which the associated agenda item is to be heard.

- a. Email comments to LongRangePlanning@fresno.gov**
- b. Emails should include the agenda date and item number you wish to speak on in the subject line of your email. Include your name and address, for the record, at the top of the body of your email.**
- c. Emails will be a maximum of 450 words.**

VIEWING MEETINGS (non-participatory) – For your convenience, there are ways to view Tower District Specific Plan Implementation Committee meetings live:

- 1. Community Media Access Collaborative website: <https://cmac.tv/>**
- 2. Cable Television: Comcast Channel 96 and AT&T channel 99**
- 3. Zoom:
https://fresno-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_taAP1qgNRGGeXj2cB5mzQQ
Webinar ID: 951 8694 8275**

- a) Register in advance for this webinar: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.**
- b) If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on “rename” to rename yourself.**

Should any of these viewing methods listed above experience technical difficulties, the Committee meeting will continue uninterrupted. Committee meetings will only be

paused to address verifiable technical difficulties for all users participating in Zoom or in person.

The City of Fresno's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Anyone requiring reasonable ADA accommodations, including sign language interpreters, or other reasonable accommodation such as language translation, should contact the Planning Department, 559 621 8277 within 48 hours of the meeting.

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:31pm and initiated roll call.

Also present were Long-Range Planning Staff Adrienne Asadoorian-Gilbert, Sophia Pagoulatos, Jennifer Clark, and Adeena Navarro.

II. Approve Agenda

On motion of Board Member Birdsong, seconded by Board Member Catania, the above ITEM was APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairperson Johnson, Board Member Lokrantz, Board Member Birdsong, Board Member Kitch and Board Member Catania

Absent: 2 - Vice Chair Conley and Board Member Coble

III. Approve Meeting Minutes

III-A [ID 25-203](#) January 14, 2025, Tower District Specific Plan Implementation Committee Special Meeting Minutes

On motion of Chairperson Johnson, seconded by Board Member Lokrantz, that the above Action Item be APPROVED AS AMENDED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairperson Johnson, Board Member Lokrantz, Board Member Birdsong, Board Member Kitch and Board Member Catania

Absent: 2 - Vice Chair Conley and Board Member Coble

IV. Council District Updates

N/A

V. Chair's Report

Chairperson Johnson provided updates on the Tower District Business Association.

VI. Staff Updates

N/A

VII. Continued Matters

- VII-A** [ID 25-202](#) Consideration of the Tower District Specific Plan Implementation Committee Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025

Asadoorian-Gilbert recounted correspondence between Staff and the Implementation Committee regarding setting a regular meeting time and location.

Clark offered alternate dates and time for regular meetings; Committee members stated preference for moving Implementation Committee meetings to either 3rd or 4th Thursdays. A poll will be sent to Committee members to finalize potential dates.

On motion of Board Member Lokrantz, seconded by Board Member Birdsong, that the above Action Item be CONTINUED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairperson Johnson, Board Member Lokrantz, Board Member Birdsong, Board Member Kitch and Board Member Catania

Absent: 2 - Vice Chair Conley and Board Member Coble

VIII. New Matters

- VIII-A** [ID 25-206](#) Workshop on the Tower District Design Guidelines Analysis

Asadoorian-Gilbert led the Design Guidelines Workshop

Committee members provided questions and concerns on the following topics: desire to change guidelines to standards, concern over references to the Development Code and desire to ensure consistency with Tower District, fencing materials (specifically chain-link), desire to address street closures, alley activation and access, use of diagrams in the revised document, security doors, window and glass material standards, desire to include definitions in the document, side and rear yard fencing, use of updated photos in the document, landscape maintenance, window security, pole signs, billboards, process in review when something is a standard vs a guideline.

IX. Unscheduled Oral Communications

Birdsong reported on a preservation effort made by the Tower District Preservation Association along with several volunteers in which participants painted 78 historic lampposts throughout District 3. The event was supported by Council Vice-President Miguel Arias' office.

Member of the public Brooke Payton commented on doorways opening out onto sidewalks, double storefronts, window security, and architectural design concerning the potential development of a library within the Tower District.

Clark made an announcement on training opportunities for all City-formed committees.

X. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:14 pm.