



ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL
PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Alfredo Balarin, Chair

Meeting called by: Alfredo Balarin, Chair | Date: August 11, 2025 | Time: 5:32 pm

Committee Members Balarin, Chair | Adams | Clarke | Hoey | Zamer
Present:

City Personnel Present: Bryan Jimenez (Legislative Director), Robert Wenner (Research Counsel),
Alyssa Kamara (Junior Policy Analyst); Brad Glass (Director of Planning)

Minutes

Agenda Item(s):

- **LOCAL LAW G OF 2022**
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING PART 4 (HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION), PART 13 (PLANNING BOARD OF CITY OF ALBANY), AND PART 35 (BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS) OF CHAPTER 42 (DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS TO THE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION, CITY PLANNING BOARD, AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Discussion:

- Committee Chair Balarin asked Director of Planning Brad Glass to speak on Local Law G of 2022.
- Director Glass spoke on recurring quorum issues prompting the introduction of the legislation. Spoke on advantage of having alternate members.
- Committee Member Zamer asked for additional language that alternates are expected to be up-to-date on current projects for the boards for which they are alternates.
- Committee Member Hoey asked how many meetings were canceled due to a lack of quorum, to which Director Glass responded that two meetings were canceled.
- Committee Member Hoey asked if an alternate could be present for quorum but restrict their voting authority, to which Director Glass responded that he would have to refer to counsel.
- Committee Member Hoey asked if we could amend the legislation to require training specific to the boards to which the alternates are assigned, to which Director Glass responded that the training is in New York State law but could be more explicitly referenced in the law.
- Committee Member Hoey asked Director Glass about compensation to alternate members, to which Director Glass responded that a lower rate of pay may be recommended compared to the current members but that further discussion could be had.

- Committee Member Zamer supported Committee Member Hoey's suggestion for including alternates in board discussions so that they are better able to make informed decisions as part of their role.
- Committee Chair Balarin reiterated Committee Member Zamer's suggestion that alternate member same training and expectations as a standard member.
- Committee Member Hoey suggested that alternates should be compensated the same as standard members and reiterated his support for an amendment permitting their attendance solely for quorum purposes in specific circumstances.
- Committee Member Zamer asked for the chair's opinion on the preceding suggestions to which Director Glass responded that it may be better to review best practices among boards in other communities.
- Committee Member Zamer asked if we should hold on voting on Local Law G of 2022 to which Committee Chair Balarin responded. Director Glass suggested that the local law be added to upcoming September 3 meeting.

Adjourn:

Committee Member Zamer moved to adjourn, duly seconded by Committee Member Adams. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Link to meeting recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOw8InMlaOE&t=1544>

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Jimenez

Legislative Director