

BNC  
May Meeting  
Saturday – May 11, 2019  
10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

**TAREA HALL PITTMAN SOUTH BRANCH**  
**Berkeley Public Library**  
1901 Russell St.  
Berkeley, CA 94703

### Minutes

BNC in transition – Dean Metzger discussed how we are looking to get more people involved in the leadership of the organization

Neighborhood Updates:

Strawberry Fork ZAB Remand (Pam Ormsby) – ZAB approved the project with more information and sent it back to City Council for final decision. Developer has not done new EIR, the creek may be a detriment to the neighbors but not to the environment. Their hydrologist looked at the buried creek in the summer. ZAB said we need more subsurface evaluation. Neighbors presented lots of evidence of the flooding. Second point was the loss of 4 rent controlled units. Looking for legally enforceable rent control in perpetuity.

Action: Strawberry Fork group may want to reach out to the Spenger's group because both have creek issues. Need to see why the City is allowing new construction within certain number of feet of an existing creek. BNC response: The City erred in their assessment of the creek.

Advice to other neighborhood groups: Neighborhood groups need to ask the right questions to get the information on the record.

Upper Hearst DEIR (Jacqueline McCormick) – Final EIR issued a week ago, over 1100 pgs. Regents meet Wednesday, May 15. Public comment starts that day at 8am. Comments can be submitted and must be received by end of day Monday, May 13th:

Email: [RegentsOffice@UCOP.edu](mailto:RegentsOffice@UCOP.edu)

Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents  
1111 Franklin St. 12<sup>th</sup> floor  
Oakland, CA 94611

Current design is 5 story building with grey walls facing the neighbors. Second issue is the “true-up” of the student population which includes an extra 11,300 students. UC insists that this population is incorporated in the campus boundary and has no environmental impacts. The City says that the increased population has tremendously impacted the city and plans to sue. Write to the UC Regents. Talking points sent out in email. Student housing has never been counted in our ABAG goals. 2-bedroom units will rent for over \$4000 and will need to be subsidized even for new faculty members, costing over \$800,000/year.

North Berkeley BART Development May 9<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting update (Janis Ching) – 3 plans presented for the North Berkeley BART development. Being referred to the City Manager and Planning Commission to develop zoning standards for BART stations.

Old Business:

**Rules governing alternate commissioners** – there are no rules about this, but there is a Commissioner’s Manual. Need to require Commissioners and alternates to read the packet in order to vote and to abstain if they have taken a stand on a particular project. Conflict of interest is about personal financial gain, so this doesn’t often apply. There is a lobbyist ordinance passed last year, but this may not apply to Commissioners.

Action: Ask Open Government Commission to require these 2 items.

**“Form-based Design”** – Toni Mester – need to get Opticos to come to the forum. How does this tie into fire and earthquake safety (liquefaction zones, etc.). SB50 numbers don’t take any of this into account. Does this put more people at risk?

**Planning for June 16 Forum on Opportunity Zones** (Dean Metzger) – Location will be at Beth Israel Temple on Bancroft. Fire chief is concerned about how new development will affect access.

New Business:

**Forming an Ethics Commission** – Dean Metzger (tabled to next meeting)

**Social Media/Web site design** (Dean Metzger) – Forming a work group to work with Meryl. The website is in "Word Press Premier"

Action: Submissions need to go somewhere on the website. Need to have a social media presence to reach a younger audience as they won’t go to the website

Announcements:

Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting about 1444 5<sup>th</sup> St.: West Berkeley/Oceanview Neighborhood Council (Jeffrey Spahn) - “Piecemeal Development” Developments over 5 units need to pay into the AHTF. Three developers have divided the property into smaller lots to build 4 units at a time to skirt this rule. There is a zoning code that says “If you build on a lot that could hold 5 units, you must pay into the AHTF.” This has not been enforced. Need to close this Lot line adjustments loop hole.

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 5:30pm East Bay Housing Organizations will discuss Opportunity Zones at Greenlining Institute 360 14<sup>th</sup> St. Oakland

May 14, 7pm San Pablo Ave Corridor Project Workshop at El Cerrito City Hall

Traffic circles – city is allowing trees with 6” trunk diameter and certain height and paid \$30,000 to remove the vegetation in the traffic circles. Task force meeting. This is all regulated by the Public Works Commission.

Adjourn

Meeting dates for 2019:

June 8, 2019

July 13, 2019

August 10, 2019

September 14, 2019

October 12, 2019

November 9, 2019

December 14, 2019