BNC

March Meeting

Saturday – June 8, 2019

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

**TAREA HALL PITTMAN SOUTH BRANCH**

**Berkeley Public Library**

1901 Russell St.

Berkeley, CA 94703

**Minutes**

Present**:** Pam Ormsby, Evan Berger, Meryl Siegal, Sharla Sullivan, Janis Ching, Igor Tregub, Christine Schwartz, David Ushijima, Gianha Ranuzzi, Michelle LePaule, DH Mayeron, Dean Metzger, PallupWilairat, Jurgen Aust, Wanda Warkentin, Merrile Mitchell, Jacqueline McCormick, Karen Gillard, Pam Speich, Steve Marinot, Gayle Garcia, Phil Bokovoy, Andy Katz.

**Suggested Meeting Guidelines** – Janis Ching

Discussed how to get to all agenda items but still have time for discussion of issues. Decided to try to allow as much discussion as possible, but if an item runs long, people who are still interested will have the option of continuing the discussion after the meeting.

**EBMUD presentation** – Director Andy Katz

EBMUD provides water for 1.4 million customers. Sierra Snowpack flows to Pardee Reservoir which is very clean and levels are good for the next 2 years. Next will be implementing ground water regulations for storage. We also have watershed preservation in Pinole and a fish hatchery that helps maintain fish populations in the delta.

Wastewater treatment for 685,000 residents. One problem is that we do not have separate wastewater and sewer systems. This means that in times of heavy rains, sewage may flow into the bay. Sewer pipes that feed from our homes into the main system are the leakiest in the system. Replacing lateral sewer pipes when houses are sold helps with this, but homes owned long term still have many leaky pipes. Coordinating the replacement of the upper and lower laterals between the homeowner and city will save money and be more efficient.

Goals: Net Zero energy use by 2040, ramp-up pipe replacement (LeConte area is next).

EBMUD is proposing a rate increase that will average about 4% for households. There are discounts for low income households. The City of Berkeley surcharge is not under EBMUD control. The water storage tanks at the top of the hills are filled by electrical pumping. In the event of a power outage, water may be rationed as they switch to diesel pumping. EBMUD has not calculated how many residents it can supply water to, but they have calculated projections based on area plans.

Earthquake preparedness: EBMUD is gradually retrofitting their main pipes, but smaller pipes will be disrupted and local areas WILL be without water for 3-7 days.

**May Joint Subcommittee on Implementation of State Housing Laws** (**JSISHL**) – David Ushijima

JSISHL is a joint city committee. Last meeting was about density. Berkeley has no objective standard for density. Without a standard, the city can’t block proposed development. Opticos is a 3rd party consultant hired to make recommendations to the city. Opticos has plotted the census information onto a map of Berkeley. Most of Berkeley is 10 dwelling units/acre. Dormitories that are on leased city land are included in the plan.

Neighborhood Updates

**North Berkeley Neighborhood Association** – Meryl Siegal

Opticos is also the consultant on the BART development and they came up with a very general plan. Asking people to write to/call the Mayor and City Council Member Rashi Kesarwani supporting 2 story height near the neighbors and higher in the middle of the project. Parking is currently 800 spots and the plans cut this by ½ to ¾. BART labeled this area an urban city center but it should be counted as a neighborhood.

**Upper Hearst Project** – Phil Bokovoy

Need to raise $100,000 to hire a lawyer to hold the city responsible for their impacts on the city.

UC EIR says that adding 11,000 students has zero impact on the city. Regents approved the Upper Hearst project and the EIR. Most of the students added are from outside CA. Non-resident students grew by 8,000 while the number of in-state students dropped. Coalition of neighbors is filing a lawsuit against UC. Forming a new non-profit called “Make UC a Good Neighbor”. Phil is available to speak to other neighborhood groups. Email BNC50@berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com and we will give him your information. UC has filed a “slap action” against neighborhood organizers.

Jacqueline McCormick: The city feels that UC has not been paying their fair share for a long time. The city is currently in their best position to make gains in this area. It will have a bigger impact if both the City and the Neighbors are suing at the same time.

**RV permit system** – Pam Speich, Karen Gillard

Asking people to call/write to the Mayor. Speak up at the next Life Enrichment Policy Committee meeting June 10th at 10am, or at the City Council Meeting. City is working on a permit program to allow RV parking in every neighborhood. Currently there is a ban on parking in the neighborhoods from 2-5am. On April 23rd, Council members Davila and Harrison proposed a measure to support those living in their vehicles. It would grant a 3-6 month parking permit with option to renew if no complaints filed. These permits will be given across all parking areas. Use the fees to provide pump-out sewage services and other things needed.

Neighbors are asking people to be more involved in Life Enrichment Policy Committtee and want Berkeley to follow the Oakland Safe Parking model – identify specific areas to park, such as the Berkeley Marina. (Jacqueline clarified that the State owns the Berkeley Marina and will not let the RVs park there.) Neighbors suggest this could be a county-wide initiative to identify safe parking areas in the county.

**Postponing the June 16 Forum: Opportunity Zones** – Dean Metzger

New date will be in September (preferred) or October. Volunteers needed to help, especially to help find a venue, which is the most challenging task. Email BNC50@berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com to volunteer.

**Website/Social Media Update** – Meryl Siegal

Shirley Dean and her son set up and designed our website. We have now hired someone to help us build on what they have set up.

Feedback: Very few of our members have ever looked at the site and members were surprised at how much information is there. The Donate button should move to the upper right side of the page.

Other ways to reach out to the community:

East Bay Express lists neighborhood groups, we could be included there.

Facebook could help reach younger members.

City of Berkeley is in the process of re-doing their website. Open House Tuesday, 6/11 9-12am Main Library Community Room.

**Announcements**: Christine Schwartz: City Council is trying to change the way people are allowed to speak at the meetings. There is concern that this could limit the input from the public. Go to the next City Council Meeting Tuesday to voice your opinion.

Adjourn

Meeting dates for 2019:

 July 13, 2019

 August 10, 2019

 September 14, 2019

 October 12, 2019

 November 9, 2019

 December 14, 2019