

# CHAT

## BNC Meeting – Saturday, March 8, 2024

**Caitlin Palmer**

21:31 You're welcome to stay in touch with our office at [auditor@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:auditor@berkeleyca.gov).

**kelly hammargren**

21:44 Heard this week that Middle Housing is coming back to council for a vote in April

**Olga Bolotina**

22:1 Good morning Jenny and all 😊

**Christopher Kroll**

22:17 Hi Olga — do you know when middle housing will be before the council?

3 Replies

**Jenny Wong**

25:10

<https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001povWiHOjwz8vWp49x9SXLA%3D%3D>

**Bernard Marszalek**

27:01 Berkeley Public Eye

**Bernard Marszalek**

30:27 Berkeley Public Eye for donations please send to Ztangi Press, P.O. Box 9407, Berkeley,CA 94709 - - website <https://www.youtube.com/@BerkeleyPublicEye2024> and to reach us by email: - - [bpeorg2024@gmail.com](mailto:bpeorg2024@gmail.com)

**Carla Woodworth, Parker Street**

35:03 Was the staff position (prior to 2014) in the Finance Department?

**Christopher Kroll**

35:18 It is also concerning that the city does not require documentation from grantees when the city gives grants. There should be some form of reporting back to the city on how city grant funds are being used. Can the Auditor's office help instituting some type of requirement of city departments to require and make public documentation on use of city grant funds?

**Christopher Kroll**

40:46 Thank you for uncovering this lack of oversight over leased properties.

**Marianne Sluis**

42:45

Approving encroachments into or over the public right of way switched from Planning to PW circa 2011. The BMC requires public notice at the site and a 2-week comment period, but posting doesn't take place until after development plans have been approved by ZAB. To whom should we address this issue?

**Donna DeDiemar**

48:31 Does the auditor's office have any role in overseeing the use of money raised through property tax measures?

**carole marasovic**

52:49 Thank you, Olga, for being here at BNC. All Councilmembers should have a representative that listens in to BNC community issues.

👍 1 ❤️ 1

**Caitlin Palmer**

54:28 Audit recommendation dashboard: <https://dashboard.missionmark.com/779a7d0a-a1b8-4c51-bdb1-bf81145bc76e/>

**carole marasovic**

56:26 My question was that John Caner said that there was a huge disparity with the vacancy reality with instead of 10 or 11 percent vacancy in the downtown business district as OED reported, there was 28 percent according to John.

**Carla Woodworth, Parker Street**

56:42 [carlawoodworth27@gmail.com](mailto:carlawoodworth27@gmail.com) Question on where the staff person in charge of leases-- which department--Finance (prior to 2014)

**Christopher Kroll**

01:03:29 That is a concerning issue. The auditor should not be involved in city politics!

**Caitlin Palmer**

01:05:18 Sign up to receive our newsletter: [bit.ly/auditornews](http://bit.ly/auditornews)

**Christopher Kroll**

01:05:52 Thank you for coming

**carole marasovic**

01:09:19 We need an audit on Berkeley's expensive use of consultants, even more important during these challenging financial times with a City structural deficit of at least 15 million and a potential 27 million in jeopardy from the federal government.

Some consultants seem to produce excellent results while others seem to reap a substantial amount of money from the City that could be better used by the City.



**carole marasovic**

01:13:07 The City Mental Health Division needs to be audited to address restructuring to better address visible community mental health needs. For one, mental health workers need to be more visible working with people consistently on the streets.

**Olga Bolotina**

01:14:38 I might be bias, but I would also involve Councilmember **Mark Humbert and Wric in his office**

**Olga Bolotina**

01:17:14 Hmm, Janis, sorry who said that about the signs?

**Janis Ching - BNC**

01:19:01 I believe it was Justin Horner who said that, but let me double check.

**Margot Smith**

01:19:55 The Marin Avenue plan blocks people from getting out of their car with access to the sidewalk. Crazy.

**Barbara Rydlander**

01:21:11 I understand that city is offering to buy Rv's from those on street in Berkeley with ioperaative vans or vehicles in exchange for accepting housing with rehabilitative services at city owned site at 2nd near Virginia, Where are these funds coming from and any transparency in amounts used of this offer> Please respond. Barbara Rydlander

**Janis Ching - BNC**

01:23:04 Olga, it was actually Jim Bondi, Dept of Planning and Development

**Christopher Kroll**

01:23:32 Transportation Commission ignores us when we show up

**Nancy Rader**

01:24:28 TIC ignores their own commissioners who the majority disagrees with!

**Barbara Rydlander**

01:25:20 Awful problem on parking drop-off & pick up on Bancroft Way. Bus line has priority and no place for pick up or drop off, mostly important for disabled seniors ho must have access for drop off & pick up. A real hassle for those attending events at Zellarbach Hall, For Streets issue an probably

no knowledge from users of this special and indisposing bus lane which has no provision for this need.

**Margot Smith**

01:27:11 The Bike lane on Dana street blocks access to the concerts at First Church. There are buses from senior dwelling which can no longer let people off. No parking also. Yuck.

**carole marasovic**

01:27:44 Wanted to follow up on Jenny's statement about some nonprofits receiving discounted leases and others not receiving it. I can think of 1 that has long had a \$1.00 a year lease but could not survive otherwise . They are a well-respected excellent nonprofit. I would like to see to whom the other \$1.00 a year leases are given to. Can Jenny advise where this info is posted? If the City no longer funds a program, do they cancel the \$1.00 a year or discounted lease?

Christopher Kroll

01:29:02 Are all city commissions going back to hybrid meetings now?

**carole marasovic**

01:31:02 To Barbara Rylander, regarding the RV buy-back program, those monies are coming from the State. The State awarded a \$150,000 grant to CoB for this purpose.

**carole marasovic**

01:33:11 Regarding hybrid, it passed Council unanimously. The update I was last advised by Mark Numanville is that all commissions should be fully hybrid by the end of June, 2025.

**Christopher Kroll**

01:36:45 Where does ZAB meet? Isn't that a Zoomed meeting?

Janis Ching - BNC

01:36:59 ZAB meets at BUSD

**Christopher Kroll**

01:37:36 What venues owned by Berkeley are Zoom ready?

**carole marasovic**

01:37:55 Yes, because ZAB is at the School Boardroom and thus, are easily hybrid.

**carole marasovic**

01:42:24 The public have filmed some commission meetings at the NBSC. On one commission, we had a commissioner object to one member of the public filming. That commissioner was advised that it would be a violation of the Brown Act to object to the public filming minus a major disruption in the proceedings. That commission has been fined twice in previous months.

**Carla Woodworth, Parker Street**

01:42:42 2180 Milvia (City Hall)....2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (closed due to seismic issues).

**Kate Harrison**

01:42:50 How difficult is it to add Zoom capacity? Seems like a minor barrier

**carole marasovic**

01:43:32 Mark Numanville states that it will be done so that all commission meetings will be hybrid.

There is an error above. Where it states fined, it was intended to stay filmed.

**Kate Harrison**

01:48:20 3 bdroom units are usually for multiple students without cars

**Christopher Kroll**

01:51:19 Charles Kahn is a new member of the Planning Commission. Soshanna OKeefe replaced Elisa Mikiten with Mr Kahn

Margot Smith

01:52:17 Wicks has several bills to deny cities their permit abilities for building housing. She is repaying her donors with legislation.

**Christopher Kroll**

01:53:23 Yes Wicks et al want to continue to decimate CEQA

**carole marasovic**

01:56:43 Following up on Barbara Rylander's question regarding the RV buy-back program, these monies were provided through a \$150,000 grant from the state. The program has been actively operating for the last couple of months. RV dwellers, around 2nd Street, were offered \$175.00 per square foot bumper to bumper for their RVs regardless of condition. They were also offered a room at the Capri Motel (formerly the Howard Johnson's) on University Avenue where they will be worked with to secure permanent housing.

One RV dweller told me that he and his wife were extremely happy to receive \$4,900. for their RV and also very happy to have the room at the Capri. When I spoke with them, they were still moving their property from Second Street.

The RVs recovered will presumably be junked.

**Christopher Kroll**

01:56:48 Kate Harrison pointed out last year that other cities give developers a set period of time to begin development or the permit will lapse. Berkeley for some reason does not do this so we end up with half of Center Street as a ghost town for years. Hello Olga — can something be done about this?

1 Reply

**Kate Harrison**

01:57:47 And young people are moving according to the NYT to Houston, other cities with larger units. They don't want to live in boxes either

**Kate Harrison**

02:01:43 Property owners and tenants who deserve open space and light as well

**Christopher Kroll**

02:02:34 Do we still deserve open space and light in the City of Berkeley? It is not in the YIMBY agenda...

**kelly hammargren**

02:04:20 lapse permit is BNC 23.404.060,

**2. *Expiration of Permit.***

**(a) The Zoning Officer may declare a permit lapsed if it is not exercised within one year of its issuance, except as provided in Paragraph (b) below.**

**(b) A permit authorizing construction may not be declared lapsed if the applicant has applied for a building permit or has made a substantial good faith effort to obtain a building permit and begin construction.**

(c) The Zoning Officer may declare a permit lapsed only after 14 days written notice to the applicant.

(d) A determination that a permit has lapsed may be appealed to the ZAB in accordance with Chapter [23.410](#) (Appeals and Certifications).

**3. *Effect of Lapsed Permit.* A permit declared lapsed shall be void and of no further force and effect.** To establish the use or structure authorized by the lapsed permit, an applicant must apply for and receive City approval of a new permit.

carole marasovic

02:05:22

Chris had an earlier question to Jenny about the Golden Bear. I believe that that contract may be directly with the State. Also, residents at GB are accepted through the County CES system. This differs from the motels secured through state encampment resolution monies where the CoB has control over whom they take in.

**kelly hammargren**

02:08:17 the new national government is filled with kleptocrats. we should look at building in Berkeley as a place to park money it is not about housing. I would be surprised if these projects are built with laundered money.

**Marianne Sluis**

02:10:41 Thanks everyone; I have to leave. My email: [mqsluis@mac.com](mailto:mqsluis@mac.com)

**Christopher Kroll**

02:13:22 In response to Kate, the neighbors concern is as I said that this neighborhood already has two supportive/transitional housing projects in a 2 block area and the NBB project will also have a major supportive housing project. That is a lot for one neighborhood to be supporting.

**Olga Bolotina**

02:18:07 Thank you so much for having me here and allowing me to speak on behalf of Councilmember Igor Tregub! Please don't hesitate to email me at [oBolotina@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:oBolotina@berkeleyca.gov)

You're welcome to stay in touch with our office at [auditor@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:auditor@berkeleyca.gov).