BNC

March Meeting Notes

Saturday – March 9, 2019

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

**TAREA HALL PITTMAN SOUTH BRANCH**

**Berkeley Public Library**

1901 Russell St.

Berkeley, CA 94703

**Agenda**

10:10 – 10:35 Review of February 23rd Forum – Video on BNC website. Discussion of what went well and what could have been done better:

1. Councilmembers were unclear as to the purpose of the forum, questioned why they weren’t involved. Need to let them know that the focus is on city-wide issues, NOT the district, so they are not involved in the agenda.
2. This was a marathon of questions, maybe next forum needs to have a more defined topic (one policy question).
3. Suggested topics: Fire Safety; putting housing where jobs are; downtown development; What will Council do with local control if they get it?; Input on what the City should be negotiating for with UC; the Missing Middle; a true transit plan; have Buffy Wicks and Nancy Skinner answer questions.

Discuss next Forum date, topic and location: People were open to having the forum in various districts – Kate Harrison wants one in District 4. Would like to set the next one in May, then one in September.

10:35-10:45 The “Missing Middle” Plan – Shirley Dean: The plan proposed by Lori Droste and Ben Bartlett will be discussed at the March 26 Council Meeting. They want to divide lots into smaller parcels. Unclear how these will be affordable to those of moderate income levels as they will still be market rate. This will affect a large portion of land in the City which could inflate land prices, drive speculation and increase fire danger. City Council is working to create a new General Plan which will encompass this. Toni suggested looking into “Form-based Zoning”.

10:45 – 11:00 2701 Shattuck Appeal (scheduled for March 12, 2019) – Todd Darling asked people to come out to Council meeting Tuesday and support their appeal on the basis that the new building is not well suited to the lot configuration, will block their solar panels, take away 6’ of city sidewalk and not provide benefits, includes a café space that the developer admits is not viable, etc.

11:00– 11:30 CASA – What is it and what does it do to our local Zoning – Power Point. There are 10 elements to this plan which are supposed to protect current residents through just cause eviction, remove barriers to ADU’s, produce more housing, develop public lands including setting minimum zoning near transit, identify funding sources for $1.5B/year to implement the CASA compact, etc. This is expected to be on the ballot in 2020 and 2022.

11:30 – 11:45 Legislation to implement CASA – What should BNC do? List of legislation (attached). Consensus is to write a letter opposing many of the elements. Someone suggested finding out what is Berkeley’s Jobs:Housing ratio and demand that any legislation take into account what communities have already done to build. Need to discuss further at next meeting.

11.45 – 11:55 Making Berkeley Work for Everyone (attached) – From the Mayor’s office. BNC’s

response? Discussed what has been done this year and what is being planned. Jacqueline suggested that now is the time to get involved. Also discussed how new UC development will impact the city. See: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/resources-notices/public-notices>. Will discuss further next meeting.

11:55 – 12:00 Next Joint Subcommittee on Implementation of State Housing Laws (JSISHL) – January

meeting report – next meeting is March 27 at 7pm. Check the web page for details: <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Joint_Subcommittee_for_the_Implementation_of_State_Housing_Laws_Homepage.aspx>

The meeting agenda is not yet posted, but the committee was scheduled to discuss how the existing objective standards in Berkeley's zoning code have been treated in recent projects that have come before ZAB and/or Planning Commission. These include: 1601 Oxford and 4th St. (across from Spengers).

Adjourn

Meeting dates for 2019:

 April 13, 2019

 May 11, 2019

 June 8, 2019

 July 13, 2019

 August 10, 2019

 September 14, 2019

 October 12, 2019

 November 9, 2019

 December 14, 2019