BNC

March Meeting

Saturday – July 13, 2019

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

**TAREA HALL PITTMAN SOUTH BRANCH**

**Berkeley Public Library**

1901 Russell St.

Berkeley, CA 94703

**Minutes**

Present: Janis Ching, Steve Martinot, Eva Chrysanthe, Gale Garcia, Pam Ormsby, Shirley Dean

David Ushijima, Gianna Ranuzzi, Steve Medbery, Barbara Gilbert, Willie Phillips,

Jurgen A, Ben Bartlett

Neighborhood Updates

 RV Parking –The City Council Standing Committee on health issues is recommending issuing 2 week permits, extendable to 3 months, 20 permits/month (Going to be discussed at City Council meeting July 23). These will be in designated locations. The corporation yard on Allston and the Transfer station on 2nd St. are two possible locations. State is disallowing “camping” on the His Lordships restaurant parking lot. What about the RV’s that are already here? Council thinks there are already 200 vehicles. City Manager says it will cost $400,000/year to manage this program. Need to build a pumping station for sewage disposal.

 LeConte Neighborhood Association – (Gianna) Sophie Hahn met with them June 26th stated that the standing committee meetings are an extension of City Council meetings and the work is getting done at these. There are 6 committees with 3 members on each including: Agenda and Rules, Health and Liveability, etc. Discussion around whether this is an open government issue.

 2701 Shattuck Ave – Neighbors are meeting Monday to decide if they will appeal to City Council a second time.

 Friends of Adeline – Two issues: 1.) Leonard Powell receivership is heading to a hearing at Superior Court. 2.) Adeline Corridor comment period has been extended to July 19th to comment on the EIR which considers land use, but not people. Please write your comment that more dialogue happen between the Planning Dept and FOA to get the public thoughts into the plan. FOA is putting together a list of conditions for what goes into the plan. Demand that the plan have a means of enforcement. Be specific about what you want to have included in the plan. FOA supports the flea market. EIR is not always enforced.

Council Members Bartlett and Harrison are working on eliminating the in-lieu fee in districts 2, 3, 4 to force on-site affordable units. Davila is in support, but other Council Members are not supporting this as a city-wide rule.

 Missing Middle – Tabled to next meeting

Policy for posting announcements – We must have 3 days notice to post something to the group. This will increase the number of e-mails sent out each week and received general agreement from those present.

Procedure for suggesting a topic for BNC action: Members are asked to provide a written statement about the topic that provides background information. For example:

“Citizen Participation” This will be a topic for the next BNC Newsletter. The concern is that the public does not always have a way to be truly heard. City Council is meeting in sub-committees that meet during the day when many cannot attend. “Berkeley Considers” is an online response forum that is trying to take the place of some of the other ways the public can comment. Discussion centered on whether Berkeley Considers can and/or should verify the identity of people who comment and whether people who go in person to the meetings have more influence. How do we know that comments are read?

“Asphalt Plant Permitting” is another topic a member is working on to present to the group.

Opportunity Zones/Planning for the Forum – Ben Bartlett/David Ushijima

Ben Bartlett’s office sent out a letter to all residents saying watch out for people trying to buy your property. He states that Compass Real Estate is a Jared Kushner/Saudi backed company and that other companies like this are already working on buying properties in the Opportunity Zones.

See Council Member Bartlett’s op ed on the BNC website under documents or click here: <http://berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/QOZ-Op-Ed.docx>

Money needs to be in place by the end of 2019, so anyone who wants to set up a fund needs to do it quickly, but it is likely too late for the City to create one. Bartlett’s office is working on establishing an overlay and a prospectus for the City to market properties to impact investors to compete with organizations like Compass.

Discussion around how this came about: Federal Government identified low income tracts in 2017 and the City Dept of Econ Development approved them.

What can we do?

Planning Commission needs to fast track an overlay that will guarantee community benefits in the zones.

The City is may work with East Bay Community Foundation to make an “East Bay Fund”

Work with realtors to identify projects that will benefit the communities

Vote on Berkeley Considers and encourage mission-driven investment

Announcements: McGee Spaulding Neighborhood Association encourages people to donate to bit.ly/2GVCtgT to cancel medical debt. See the handout on the BNC website under documents or click here: <http://berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RIP-MD-BerkCC-flyer-06-06-19.pdf>

Adjourn

Meeting dates for 2019:

 August 10, 2019

 September 14, 2019

 October 12, 2019

 November 9, 2019

 December 14, 2019