BNC

September Meeting

Saturday – September 14, 2019

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

**TAREA HALL PITTMAN SOUTH BRANCH**

**Berkeley Public Library**

1901 Russell St.

Berkeley, CA 94703

**Minutes**

Present: Dean Metzger, David Ushijima, Steve Medbery, Toni Mester, Janis Ching, Michelle LePaule, Fernando Echeverria, Gianna Ranuzzi, Wanda Wakantin, Jacquelyn McCormick, Trudy Washburn, Shirley Dean, Meryl Siegal, Mary Beth Thomsen, Gale Garcia, Tony Corman, Todd Darling, Avazeh Pourhamzeh, Scott Fanning, Michele Schurman, Mari Mendonca, Steve Martinot

Tenants Opportunity to Purchase Act – Fernando Echeverria, EBCLC [fecheverria@ebclc.org](mailto:fecheverria@ebclc.org)

Informational item – focus groups will be held going forward, contact Fernando to participate. Gives tenants the first option to buy a building. Working to make sure the property remains affordable. Applies to buildings of 3 or more units. Financial assistance from a fund possibly funded through Measure O. Technical assistance to tenants from groups like EBCLC. Questions around how the price is set, who will administer the program, how to protect property owners who are relying on the income for retirement for instance, what about owners who want to sell to a family member?

Opportunity Zones/Planning for the Forum - David Ushijima/Dean Metzger

September 28th 10-12 noon at 1744 University Ave. (Lutheran Church of the Cross). Kate Harrison and Ben Bartlett have confirmed, still working to confirm Cheryl Davila and someone from Mayor’s office. City is sending a lawyer to explain the program.

JSISHL September 25th meeting 7 pm – David Ushijima

September topic will be density standards. Dwelling units/acre is the current definition of density, but how are dwelling units defined? Shouldn’t we consider earthquake and fire dangers? Write a letter or attend the meeting to express concerns. Check city calendar for location. October topic will be shadows 10/23 at 7pm.

San Pablo Corridor Plan – Michele Schurman

Alameda Transit Authority has decided all of San Pablo from Oakland to Pinole is under one plan. The plan is for one lane of traffic in each direction, with buses down the middle and bike paths, eliminating loading zones and parking. Three options were presented with 90 day comment period, but no EIR or business impact statement. Goal is to limit car use.

Neighborhood Updates:

2435 San Pablo – Scott Fanning

Group living, no parking for tenants and eliminates parking for the local businesses, probable short term tenants, soil stability issues, height and architecture issues. Neighbors are just starting to build consensus.

NBNA – Tony Corman: [anthonyjaycorman@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyjaycorman@gmail.com)

North Berkeley BART parking lot development 7-10 stories, limited parking for residents, no commuter parking. Asking for a “liveable” space with green space, non-profit developer, commuter parking leads to more people taking BART instead of driving. Planning a community meeting in October. Join the mailing list by contacting Tony.

2325 6th St. – Toni Mester

September 24th City Council Appeal. 2-story building (between Bancroft and Channing) with a 2-story addition. Asking for people to come to the City Council meeting. Neighbors feel this is a mini dorm in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Issues include: the back unit is 18” from the property line and will be a “hotel room” with short term rentals.

2701 Shattuck Ave. – Todd Darling: [tdarling2000@yahoo.com](mailto:tdarling2000@yahoo.com)

7 story building that will shadow the dense neighborhood around it. City Council remanded it to ZAB, and ZAB decision was to pass it because the developer had addressed the Council’s issues. Neighbors issues are that the developers came to ZAB without a concrete plan of how to address Council’s issues. Also, this is a density bonus project, but the base project was not possible. November 9th is the appeal date. Contact Todd if you want to participate: Include “2701 Shattuck” in subject line.

Asphalt Processing Plant – Meryl Siegal

One nearby resident has an air monitoring unit and has seen early morning spikes in air quality into the unhealthy range. Bay Area Air Quality Management District has approved the renewal of the permit for the plant to operate. Also, Pacific Steel Casting is supposed to be closed, but there is apparently still a business operating there. Was there a business permit issued? Pollution at the Aquatic Park was also brought up and theses issues will be put on the November Agenda.

Note that the October BNC meeting is CANCELLED.

Adjourn

Meeting dates for 2019:

BNC Forum: September 28, 2019

October 12, 2019 - Cancelled

November 2, 2019

December, 2019??