

BNC
December Meeting Minutes
Saturday – December 5, 2020
10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

This month's meeting was held via Zoom.

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome

10:05-10:30 Neighborhood Updates

BART site development – Next CAG meeting is 12/14/2020 to discuss height and form. North Berkeley Neighborhood Alliance wants people to turn out to speak about making development consistent with the neighborhood and not letting the State override the City Plan. Friends of Adeline continue to push for 100% below market rate housing on the BART site and for BART to use the Area Median Income (AMI) of Berkeley instead of for Alameda County so that people will pay no more than 30% of their income toward housing. They are opposed to the 80-120% AMI proposed by South Berkeley Now, which they see as market rate.

2435 San Pablo – The neighbors are appealing the ZAB decision to City Council on January 21. It is a special meeting beginning at 6pm. The main points of the appeal were discussed and neighbors are invited to join the City Council meeting. Toni Mester will give another reminder at the January 9th meeting.

New Proposed South Berkeley Development Walgreens/Model Garage – nothing new is happening at the moment, but the neighbors do not agree that the 2 parcels on Shattuck (one on each side of the Berkeley Bowl) should be allowed to be treated as one project. They want the 20% affordable units to be included onsite and for the City to enforce the rule that use permits expire in one year if no application for building permits are received.

2915 Harper – This is one of the first projects moving forward under the new state law about ADU development. No notice was given to neighbors (including long-term, lower income households in the multi-family main building on the property) and local ordinances are being superseded by state law. Tabled to BNC January meeting.

Status of UC lawsuits and the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) – [Phil Bokovoy](#) gave a summary of 4 issues and appealed for financial support of the on-going law suits. The hearings are on BlueJeans video conferencing, but you must write to the court to get access. Those who want to donate and get more information about these issues can go to the website [SaveBerkeleysNeighborhoods](#):

1. UC over-enrollment – on its way to the CA Supreme Court. Trying to get UC held responsible for studying the impact of increased enrollment.
2. Upper Hearst development – March 2, 2021 is the next hearing and UC is running up the legal costs. The issues center around the Environmental Impact Report.
3. Clark Kerr development – trial scheduled for late March. The issues center around what is restricted by covenant and endangering public access to the area
4. The LRDP – trying to come up with a statewide effort coordinating cities (like Santa Cruz and Berkeley) and residents to fight increased enrollment at already crowded campuses.

UC Berkeley Softball Field Development - Janice Thomas presented that this is a \$26M project, not just renovations to the softball field. As UC runs out of space for intercollegiate sports, they are expanding out into Clark Kerr and impacting neighborhoods as there is not good access to these sites.

Kate Harrison – Presentation on the Covid Emergency: New restrictions go in place Monday at midnight, we must do our part to lower the spread of infection regionally. There are 3 emergency shelter locations opening for 50-100 people. Councilmember Harrison also reminded the group that a site for an outdoor shelter is coming up soon as the city is considering 3 sites. We are starting the second round of disbursements from the Berkeley Relief Fund. Thank you to Berkeley Residents who have contributed to this effort. \$4.5M has already gone to local businesses, and residents suffering financial losses. Please continue to give! Important links:

[Small Business Damage Mitigation Fund](#)

[Resilience Loan Fund](#)

[Berkeley Relief Fund](#)

Brief discussion of AB 330 especially around the issue of parking and transit. We need to make city staff more responsive to the needs of our residents and to take the General Plan and Area Plans as more than just suggestions. We need to look at a local transit plan and how to make it safe and accessible to all.

Pollution from Asphalt Plant – The asphalt plant in West Berkeley’s permit is currently being considered by the city. Meryl Siegal presented how the asphalt plant in West Berkeley is another example how the Air Quality Resources Board has been ineffective at monitoring and neglecting to enforce air standards in this neighborhood. There is a CEAC (Community Environmental Advisory Commission) meeting on December 10th at 1:00 p.m. You can get information on that commission from toxics@cityofberkeley.info. You can also send your concerns to the CEAC regarding the permitting process of toxic and nuisance industries in West Berkeley. Several people signed on to help work on this issue. Contact [Meryl](#) to join.

Sophie Hahn: Discussion on the elimination of parking at new developments and how to capture the savings and use it for subsidizing alternative forms of transit through our city. We need to find creative solutions. City Council will be looking at this on December 15. Please attend the meeting to speak up about this.

NEXT MEETING:

January 9, 2021 – TOPA (Tenant’s Opportunity to Purchase Act)
- New laws governing ADUs

Tentative Meeting dates for 2021 (Confirmation of meeting dates will be sent via email):

February 13, 2021

March 13, 2021

April 10, 2021

May 8, 2021

June 12, 2021

July 10, 2021

August 14, 2021

September 11, 2021

October 9, 2021
November 13, 2021
December 11, 2021