



Planning Commission

FINAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING July 1, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

1. ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Benjamin Beach, Robb Kapla, Shane Krpata, Mary Kay Lacey, Steve Martinot, Jeff Vincent, Brad Wiblin, and Rob Wrenn.

Commissioners Absent: Christine Schildt.

Staff Present: Secretary Alene Pearson, Katrina Lapira, Paola Boylan, and Jordan Klein.

2. ORDER OF AGENDA: No changes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: 0

4. PLANNING STAFF REPORT:

- Planning Department staff changes:
 - Department director, Timothy Burroughs, to step down and become Deputy Executive Director of Stop Waste
 - Introduction of Jordan Klein, Manager of the Office of Economic Development, who has been appointed the Interim Director of the Planning Department

Information Items:

- April 28 - City Council Item 8 – Eight Previous Referrals (No attachments)

Communications:

- April 23 – Planning Staff, Commission Meeting Update
- May 21 – Locke – Paddon + Drost, ADU and JADU Regulations
- May 29 – Planning Staff, Commission Meeting Update
- June 12 – Tyler Street Residents, Short Term Rental Regulations

Late Communications (Received after the Packet deadline):

- June 28 – Standard Fare, Small Business Support
- June 29 – AC Transit, AC Transit Survey
- June 29 – People’s Park Historic Advocacy Group, People’s Park

Staff presented proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments to Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 23.16 (Home Occupations) to reduce the levels of discretion for moderate-impact home occupations, modify thresholds for client-visits and clarify and reformat ordinance language and structure, . Planning Commission opened public hearing, requested input, discussed the proposal and agreed upon a recommendation to Council.

Motion/Second/Carried (Vincent/Martinot) to close the public hearing at 8:23pm.

Ayes: Beach, Kapla, Krpata, Lacey, Martinot, Vincent, Wrenn, and Wiblin. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Schildt. (8-0-0-1)

Motion/Second/Carried (Kapla/Vincent) to adopt staff recommendations, with a clarification in Section 23C.16.020 to reflect primary residence not Dwelling Unit.

Ayes: Beach, Kapla, Krpata, Lacey, Vincent, Wrenn, and Wiblin. Noes: None. Abstain: Martinot. Absent: Schildt. (7-0-1-1)

Public Comments: 0

10. Discussion: Referrals Supporting Berkeley Businesses

Staff provided an overview of five City Council referrals related to supporting Berkeley businesses. These referrals include expanding the Downtown Arts District Overlay, expanding beer and wine service at restaurants in Manufacturing districts, modifications in the Elmwood Commercial district, updating the definition of “research and development”, and reducing permit processes and requirements to support small businesses. Planning Commission asked staff to research referral requests and provide information on existing conditions, current regulations, desired goals, and assess potential impacts on existing businesses. Planning Commission had a particular interest in the research and development referral and referrals affecting the Manufacturing districts. Planning Commission asked staff to apply an equity lens when analyzing policy options that address referral requests.

Public Comments: 1

Chair Kapla Comment: Would to review and revise short-term rental policies in the future.

The meeting was adjourned in honor of Margie Wilkinson at 9:29pm

Commissioners in attendance: 8

Members in the public in attendance: 7

Public Speakers: 1 speakers

Length of the meeting: 2 hours and 29 minutes



Alene Pearson
Planning Commission Secretary