



Planning Commission

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
April 19, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Location: South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley, CA 94703

1. ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Blaine Merker, Jeff Vincent, Chip Moore, Christina Oatfield, Elisa Mikiten, Emily Marthinsen, Savlan Hauser, Barnali Ghosh, and Brandon Yung (alternate for Commissioner Twu).

Commissioner Absent: Alfred Twu (excused absence).

Staff Present: Temporary Secretary Claudia Garcia, Clerk Zoe Covello, Justin Horner, and Ashley James.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Chochen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

3. ORDER OF AGENDA: No changes.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: 2.

5. PLANNING STAFF REPORT:

- Beginning at the May 3rd Planning Commission meeting, which is in two weeks, all Planning Commission meetings will meet at the North Berkeley Senior Center starting at 5:30pm. Staff will make sure there are clear directions to the Gooseberry Room, which is on the first floor.
- Highlighted a memo from the Department of Parks Recreation and Waterfront Director Scott Ferris to the Planning Commissioners, sharing the latest project materials for the Waterfront Specific Plan.
- The 2022 Annual Progress Reports on the City's General Plan and Housing Element – which includes unit tracking – were submitted April 1st to the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The City issued building permits for 887 units in 2022, including 88 very low income units and 58 low income units. You can download the unit tracking information from the Housing Element webpage and staff are working with the Communications team to add the General Plan APR's to the General Plan webpage.
- In BART-related news. We have a couple of upcoming community meetings related to planning for Ashby and North Berkeley BART station areas:
 - **Thursday 4/20:** 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Ed Roberts Campus (3075 Adeline St.). BART is hosting a community meeting that will focus on Ashby BART's operational requirements and their impact on future development and potential connection to Adeline St.
 - **Wednesday 5/10:** 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the North Berkeley Senior Center (1901 Hearst Ave.). North Berkeley Housing Partners (the development and design team) will host a public "open house" to solicit input on a variety of topics related to the future development at the N. Berkeley BART station area. This meeting will inform and is part of the City's process to develop of the City's Objective Design Standards for the site.
- We have some exciting items lined up for our next few Planning Commission meetings:
 - On May 3rd, the tentative agenda includes three public hearing items: a tentative tract map for 3000 San Pablo, a revised ADU ordinance, and zoning amendments to bring the City's special needs, employment housing, day care, and parking regulations to match state law.
 - For June 7th, the tentative agenda is to bring forward a discussion item on Part II of zoning amendments to support Berkeley businesses. I believe several commissioners were around for Part I in 2020.
- There were 5 late communications received regarding the Southside item tonight.

Information Items:

- *April 19, 2023* - Memo from Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront to the Planning Commission. Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan (WSP) Update - Attached.
- *March 20, 2023* – City Council Meeting. Update on the Waterfront Specific Plan for the City of Berkeley Public Tidelands Area.
<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-0320%20WS%20Item%2001%20Update%20on%20the%20Waterfront%20Specific%20Plan.pdf>

Communications:

- General.

Late Communications: *See agenda for links.*

- Supplemental Packet One.
- Supplemental Packet Two.

6. CHAIR REPORT:

- Bird Safe Glass Ordinance Recommendation to Council - Commissioner Twu took the lead in drafting a memo on behalf of the Planning Commission to City Council. Vice Chair Ghosh, Chair Vincent, and staff reviewed the memo. It will be in the packet for the June 6th City Council meeting.

7. COMMITTEE REPORT: Reports by Commission committees or liaisons. In addition to the items below, additional matters may be reported at the meeting.

- None.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion/Second/Carried (Mikiten/Moore) to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from March 1, 2023.

Ayes: Merker, Vincent, Moore, Oatfield, Mikiten, Marthinsen, Hauser, Ghosh, Yung. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. (9-0-0-0)

9. OTHER PLANNING RELATED EVENTS:

- None.

AGENDA ITEMS

10. Discussion: Southside Zoning Modification Project

Senior Planner Ashley James presented on the proposed zoning ordinance amendments for parcels within the Southside Plan Area. Public comment was taken, and the commissioners discussed the draft ordinance amendments and provided feedback to staff.

Public Comments: 11

Motion/Second/Carried (Vincent/Mikiten) to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm.

Ayes: Merker, Vincent, Moore, Oatfield, Mikiten, Marthinsen, Hauser, Ghosh, Yung Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. (9-0-0-0)

Members in the public in attendance: 24

Public Speakers: 13

Length of the meeting: 2 hr 16 minutes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Wu".

Grace Wu

Planning Commission Secretary