



Planning Commission

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
October 4, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Location: North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

1. ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Blaine Merker, Jeff Vincent, John E. Moore, Christina Oatfield, Emily Marthinsen, Elisa Mikiten, Alfred Twu, Savlan Hauser, and Barnali Ghosh.

Commissioner Absent: None.

Staff Present: Secretary Alisa Shen, Clerk Zoe Covello, Grace Wu, Justin Horner, Sarah Lana, and Eleanor Hollander.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Commissioner Ghosh shared that Indigenous Peoples Day Powwow and Indian Market will be held at Civic Center Park on Saturday, October 7th from 10am to 6pm.

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: 0.

5. PLANNING STAFF REPORT:

- On Tuesday, October 3rd, City Council adopted the first reading of the City's new ADU ordinance.
- The City of Berkeley and North Berkeley Housing Partners held a North Berkeley BART Community Meeting and Open House on September 11th
 - City presented draft Objective Design Standards (ODS) and the North Berkeley Housing Partners presented a preliminary development concept
 - Staff is intending to bring this item to the Planning Commission in a special meeting on October 18th
- A public draft of the Waterfront Specific Plan is available for review and comments are currently being accepted - <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/waterfront-specific-plan>
 - A City Council worksession is planned to be held on Thursday, November 2nd
- On Tuesday November 14th, the Southside Zoning amendments going to City Council for a first reading

Information Items: None.

Communications:

- General.

Late Communications: *See agenda for links.*

- Supplemental Packet One.

6. CHAIR REPORT:

- Chair Vincent shared that there was a celebration of life for Gene Poschman published in Berkeleyside recently. Mr. Poschman served as the Chair of the Planning Commission when Chair Vincent started, as well as on the Zoning Adjustments Board and many other commissions.

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 (Twu/Vincent) to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from September 6, 2023.

Ayes: Merker, Vincent, Moore, Oatfield, Mikiten, Marthinsen, Twu, Hauser. Noes: None. Abstain: Ghosh. Absent: None. (8-0-1-0)

9. OTHER PLANNING RELATED EVENTS:

- Chair Vincent shared that PC may agendaize changing the start time of the Planning Commission at either the 10/18 or 11/1 meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

10. Discussion: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Presentation

Manager of OES Sarah Lana presented on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Public Comments: 0

11. Action: Public Hearing: Berkeley Business Amendments

Associate planner Justin Horner presented the proposed zoning ordinance amendments. Public comment was taken, draft amendments were discussed, and a recommendation to City Council was made.

Motion/Second/Carried (Vincent/Ghosh) to close the public hearing at 6:43pm.

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

Public Comments: 2

Motion/Second/Carried (Mikiten/Moore) to recommend staff's proposed amendments with the modification to match the "Health and Fitness Facility, 7,500 sf or larger" row in Table 23.204-1 with the permits required for "Group Instruction 3,000 sf or larger" row for each district at 7:25pm

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

Motion/Second/Carried (Oatfield/Mikiten) to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm.

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

Members in the public in attendance: 3

Public Speakers: 2

Length of the meeting: 2 hr 6 minutes



Alisa Shen
Planning Commission Secretary