

**APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2000**

Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.  
Location: North Berkeley Senior Center

Commissioners present: Boverhuis (arrived at 7:15), Bronstein, Poschman, Morris (arrived at 9:00), Wrenn, Capitelli, Howerton, Wengraf.

Commissioners Absent: McCamant.

Staff Present: Aaron, Haney-Owens, Thomas.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment.

**ORDER OF AGENDA**

No change.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No report.

**COUNCIL ACTIONS**

No report.

**FUTURE AGENDAS**

Staff Haney-Owens reminded the Commission that there will be a special meeting on November 15 to discuss the Transportation and Community Character Elements of the Southside Plan, and the related Design Guidelines. Staff Haney-Owens noted that the North Shattuck Urban Design Study may be considered at this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6 AND SEPTEMBER 27**

(M/S/C) to approve minutes from September 6, with noted changes (Capitelli/Bronstein). Ayes: Wrenn, Wengraf, Boverhuis, Poschman. Noes: none. Abstain: Howerton. Absent: McCamant, Morris.

(M/S/C) to approve minutes from September 27, with noted changes (Poschman/McCamant). Ayes: Wrenn, Bronstein, Morris, Capitelli, Wengraf, Howerton. Noes: none. Abstain: none. Absent: McCamant, Morris.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE COMMISSION DRAFT GENERAL PLAN**

(M/S/C) to open public hearing (Bronstein/Capitelli). Ayes: Wrenn, Wengraf, Howerton, Boverhuis, Poschman. Noes: none. Absent: McCamant, Morris.

Staff Thomas explained the EIR process for the General Plan. He stated that the EIR Scoping Session will be held prior to the Planning Commission meeting November 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Wrenn stated that the Planning Commission expects to move the Draft General Plan to the City Council by May 2001.

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**A. Land Use, Housing, and Open Space Elements**

John English stated that the General Plan needs more data on projected housing units and population. He also suggested specific changes to the land use map. He requested that a map of public land and open space be included in the General Plan.

Martha Nicoloff presented the written comments she submitted.

Becky O'Malley stated that more data on housing is needed. Staff Thomas clarified that updated housing data will be included in the draft as soon as the Association of Bay Area Governments finalizes their current analysis.

Peter Lydon stated that the preservationist theme is too strong throughout the General Plan, and that the Plan should focus more on the future, including the development of downtown.

Andy Katz from the Associated Students of UC stated that he supports the Draft General Plan, particularly its emphasis on transit-oriented development.

Kate Nichol, a resident of Hopkins Street, stated that the Draft Plan needs to consider more fully the potential impacts of new commercial development on residential areas. She referred specifically to the proposed regional ferry terminal on the waterfront, which she believes will generate significant traffic and parking impacts on nearby neighborhoods. She stated that transportation and land use policies need to be better coordinated throughout the document.

John McBride stated that he supports the existing use permit system. He stated that the approval process would operate more smoothly if developers were to involve the community at an earlier point in the review process.

**B. Economic Development, Transportation, and Environmental Management Elements**

Donna Lerew, a resident of Hopkins Street, stated that traffic is increasing along her street.

Sara Warner, a resident of Hopkins Street, stated that Hopkins Street is listed as a collector and that she wants the Commission to work toward changing the designation to local residential. She stated that the steep grade of the street contributes to the high speeds of many drivers. She stated that the proximity to a school is of particular concern.

Staff Thomas clarified that no change has been made to the designation of the street since 1955. He then read the definition of a collector street. Staff Haney-Owens stated that concern regarding the need for traffic calming on collector streets was raised in the City's recent traffic calming workshops.

Gail Todd, a resident of Hopkins Street stated that the diverters installed on residential streets twenty-five years ago have contributed to increasing traffic on collector streets. She suggested changing the categorization of streets to those defined by their zoning, such as residential or commercial, rather than major, collector, etc.

Laura Stock, a resident of Hopkins Street, stated that she is concerned with traffic speeds on her street. Bob Matthews, a resident of Hopkins Street, stated that he is concerned with traffic speeds on his street. Linda Meager, also a resident of Hopkins Street, suggested that smaller buses be used on routes which enter residential areas because of their noise.

Paul Franke, who lives on College Avenue, requested additional information about the geographic distribution of automobile ownership throughout the City. He suggested that Hearst Street should be

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designated as a primary transit route. He also requested that pedestrian access improvements be expanded, including the addition of a sidewalk on Hearst Street from Oxford to Euclid.

Pat DeVito from the Berkeley Path Wanderers highlighted key points from the written comments she submitted.

Ed Bennett stated that improved bus service is needed.

Commissioner Wengraf stated that the Fire Department has been marking curbs in the Berkeley hills with red to indicate that parking is not allowed along those street sections. She noted that this is being done to ensure access to hill areas by emergency vehicles which might otherwise be impeded by parked vehicles.

Commissioner Poschman requested a map indicating the location of "no parking" signs in the hills.

Lauren Hill, a business owner in West Berkeley, stated that traffic and parking problems are increasing in the area around 4<sup>th</sup> Street. She suggested that a shuttle service be offered from downtown to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. She also stated that industrial businesses are being pushed out of the area by Internet firms.

Becky O'Malley stated that the same problems exist on Ashby as they do on Hopkins relative to traffic.

**C. Historic Preservation/Urban Design, Safety and Community Participation Elements**

Chris Hudson stated that the Draft General Plan lacks an overall vision of what the City should be. He stated that historic preservation should be used to determine which buildings should be protected, but that it should not be a tool to prevent development.

John English stated that the Draft General Plan should include job growth projections. He also stated that creeks, whether culverted or uncovered, should be included in a map in the General Plan.

Sara Warner, a resident of Hopkins Street, requested that Hopkins Street should be redesignated as a residential street.

Susan Cerny, a resident of Marin Street, stated that many of the City's traffic problems have regional causes.

Becky O'Malley stated that the City's streets have been suburbanized by traffic diversion devices.

Martha Nicoloff stated that the Draft General Plan needs to emphasize that old structures should be documented prior to demolition.

**D. General Comments**

C. Hudson stated that transit improvement is the key to successfully balancing jobs and housing in the City.

John English stated that the fair share housing allocation by the Association of Bay Area Governments can be challenged. He also stated that tsunami maps need to be updated.

Susan Cerny stated that development firms receive density bonuses for building new residential units, but that a disincentive exists for homeowners to construct new units behind their homes.

Commissioner Wengraf stated that a policy encouraging second units would cause traffic congestion and compromise the character of neighborhoods.

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Commissioner Poschman noted his agreement with the latter comment and stated that rear units reduce available open space and alter neighborhood character.

Kate Nichol stated that BART has the least impact on the City as a mode of transportation because it is underground. She stated that there are few links between BART and 4<sup>th</sup> Street, a regional commercial attraction.

Staff Thomas stated that written comments on the Draft Plan need to be submitted by January 2001.

Betsy Morris requested that the League of Women Voters hold a meeting about the General Plan.

(M/S/C) to close public hearing (Bronstein/Capitelli). Ayes: Wrenn, Morris, Wengraf, Howerton, Boverhuis, Poschman. Noes: none. Absent: McCamant.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Committee reports.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.