

**APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8, 2000**

1 Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

2 Location: North Berkeley Senior Center

3

4 Commissioners present: Howerton, Wrenn, Poschman, Tannenbaum, Bronstein,  
5 Wengraf, Morris, McCamant, Boverhuis (7:15).

6

7 Commissioners Absent: None.

8

9 Staff Present: Aaron, Haney-Owens, Thomas.

10

11 **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

12

13 No comment.

14

15 **ORDER OF AGENDA**

16

17 No change.

18

19 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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21 No report.

22

23 **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

24

25 No report.

26

27 **FUTURE AGENDAS**

28

29 The Commission agreed that one meeting will be held in December (12/13/00).

30

31 **GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC HEARING**

32

33 M/S/C to open public hearing (Poschman/Wengraf). Ayes: Wrenn, Morris, Tannenbaum,  
34 Poschman, Wengraf, Bronstein, McCamant, Howerton, Boverhuis. Noes: None.  
35 Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

36

37 **Land Use, Housing, and Open Space Elements**

38

39 Roger Hooson stated that he supports maximum density for new residential units  
40 downtown.

41

42 Sharon Entwistle summarized written comments regarding her interest in changing state  
43 law to permit local regulatory control over the University of California.

44

45 Polly Amrein stated that she is concerned by the lack of information regarding the Vista  
46 College planning process.

47

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**NOVEMBER 8, 2000**

1 Susan Libby, of the West Berkeley Association of Industrial Companies, encouraged the  
2 Commission to protect existing industrial companies in accordance with the West  
3 Berkeley Plan.

4  
5 Kirstin Miller introduced an “Ecocity Amendment” that she recommended be adopted as  
6 part of the General Plan. She summarized her written comments.

7  
8 Carrie Sprague requested that the chronology of Berkeley natural disasters be outlined in  
9 the General Plan. She also requested that a map be included indicating the location of  
10 property either owned or leased by UC.

11  
12 Betty Crolley stated that she is concerned regarding increasing density in the Southside  
13 neighborhood. She suggested that the area be developed at a medium density instead of  
14 high density.

15  
16 Emily Longfellow represented Edward Munger. She stated that there is a housing  
17 shortage in the City and advocated the repeal of existing rent control regulations because  
18 they contribute to the dearth of housing units in the Berkeley.

19  
20 Donna DeDiemar stated her support for mixed-use, higher density downtown.

21  
22 Phillip Price stated that he does not support high-density building downtown because of  
23 the traffic impacts. He also recommended that the Creek Ordinance be strengthened.

24  
25 Richard Register stated that 600 feet of creeks in the City have been restored over the  
26 past twenty-five years. He stated that the best way to further creek restoration is to  
27 accommodate new growth in the transit-served downtown area. He encouraged the City  
28 to examine the potential benefits of policies permitting the transfer of development rights  
29 to promote further creek restoration.

30  
31 David Duncan, representing UC, stated that he encourages increased dialogue between  
32 “town and gown.” He stated his support for higher density, mixed use development on  
33 the edge of the UC Berkeley campus.

34  
35 Susan Medak addressed the “cultural use bonus” provision that is slated to be abolished  
36 by the proposed General Plan. She stated that cultural institutions are not able to afford  
37 space in Berkeley and that removing this incentive would negatively impact the City.

38  
39 Norine Smith stated that the Planning Commission meetings should be televised. She also  
40 stated that methods of measuring building height should be consistent with the methods  
41 employed by other cities.

42  
43 Deborah Bodhia, of the Downtown Berkeley Association, stated that she supports the  
44 density bonus provision for cultural uses, and supports in lieu parking fees if parking  
45 requirements are waived. She also recommended that if the Oxford Street parking lot is  
46 developed, the existing parking should be maintained, and there should be some

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**NOVEMBER 8, 2000**

1 consideration given to increasing the parking, although she does not believe this will be a  
2 long-term solution to congestion problems. She summarized written comments.

3  
4 Hank Resnik stated that a clearer vision for the future of the City should be conveyed by  
5 the General Plan. He noted his support for the Ecocity Amendment, and the densification  
6 of the downtown and transportation corridors.

7  
8 Dave Campbell, of the Bicycle Friendly Berkeley Coalition, stated that affordable  
9 housing should be increased along San Pablo and Telegraph, as AC Transit continues to  
10 improve service along these corridors. He stated that the City should take advantage of  
11 the new funding to be provided if Measure B is approved.

12  
13 Daniel Krackow commented on policy T-39, stating that parking issues are not  
14 adequately addressed in all parts of the city.

15  
16 Martha Nicoloff summarized written comments.

17  
18 Steve Finacon addressed the Open Space Element, recommending that a clearer  
19 distinction be made between the quality of parks and open space, and stated that the  
20 ability of residents to use the open space sites is exaggerated. He suggested that  
21 additional dog parks be established.

22  
23 The President of the Ocean View Neighborhood Association stated that the conversion of  
24 spaces currently used by artists and manufacturers to retail uses is problematic.

25  
26 Katie Ling stated that the economics of housing should be addressed more thoroughly  
27 and that the current policies of the Rent Board work against the provision of an adequate  
28 housing supply because the housing market is constrained.

29  
30 Clifford Fred stated that he supports most of the Draft General Plan. He stated that the  
31 Gaia building in the downtown is an example of why the density bonus provision for  
32 cultural uses be eliminated.

33  
34 **Economic Development, Transportation, and Environmental Management Elements**

35  
36 John Merritt stated that Hopkins Street is unsafe because too many people speed. He  
37 stated that the current designation of Hopkins Street as a collector is incorrect and that it  
38 should be reevaluated. He stated that the character of his neighborhood is clearly  
39 residential.

40  
41 John English commented on policy T-39, stating that the map of transit routes is  
42 inaccurate. Per the Environmental Management Element, he stated that state law requires  
43 that the map of noise level contours needs to be updated. Staff Thomas stated that the  
44 EIR would address this issue.

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1 Chris Dutra stated that collector streets are not addressed in the traffic calming process  
2 underway and that this encourages inequalities in the existing system of traffic flows in  
3 the City.

4  
5 Juliet LaMont addressed policy T-39, stating that the policy should be re-written to  
6 reflect that parking impacts will be mitigated by certain policies. She also stated that she  
7 supports the Ecocity Amendment.

8  
9 Harold Boyer stated that the environmental consequences of new development should be  
10 fully studied and mitigated. He asked about how the utilities required for new  
11 construction will be funded.

12  
13 Andy Katz, of the Associated Students of UC, stated that he supports more housing in the  
14 City. He presented survey results that indicate 79% of students drive to school. He  
15 encouraged new housing to be constructed along transit corridors.

16  
17 Patrick Kennedy stated that the density bonus for cultural institutions should be  
18 preserved, and expanded to include density bonuses for the construction of nonprofit  
19 office space.

20  
21 Sunena Sabharwa stated that the City should provide incentives for building owners to  
22 perform seismic retrofits.

23  
24 Leif Aamot stated that he supports creek restoration throughout the City and higher  
25 density development downtown.

26  
27 Alyssa Hillman, of Impact Theatre, stated that she supports retaining the density bonus  
28 provision for cultural institutions.

29  
30 Doris Willingham stated that schools should be used by arts groups. She stated that she  
31 does not support increasing the heights of buildings.

32  
33 Carrie Olson stated that she supports density bonuses for affordable housing, but not for  
34 cultural institutions.

35  
36 Janet Stromberg stated that she supports the Ecocity Amendment.

37  
38 Clifford Fred stated that policy CP-4 needs to be stronger in order to ensure that outside  
39 agencies such as UC are subject to a higher degree of accountability.

40  
41 Hank Resnik stated that he hoped that the General Plan process would incorporate a  
42 vision for the future of the City that will represent the community's interests, similar to  
43 the community visioning process which resulted in the decision to place BART  
44 underground in Berkeley.

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1 Martha Nicoloff stated that other opportunities for supporting the arts should be explored,  
2 but that the density bonus provision for cultural institutions should be removed.

3  
4 Mary Mitchell stated that increasing density leads to increasing social alienation.

5  
6 Doris Willingham stated that residential parking permits need to be enforced by the City.

7  
8 Kate Bernier stated that additional creek restoration would lead to greater mosquito  
9 problems.

10  
11 M/S/C to close public hearing (Poschman/Wengraf). Ayes: Wrenn, Morris, Tannenbaum,  
12 Poschman, Wengraf, Bronstein, McCamant, Howerton, Boverhuis. Noes: none.  
13 Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

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15  
16 Adjournment:

17  
18 The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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