

**APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 23, 2003**

ROLL CALL

Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Location: North Berkeley Senior Center.

Commissioners Present: Allamby (for Wrenn), Bronstein, Curl, Pollack, Poschman, Tabb, Wengraf, Wiggins.

Commissioners Absent: Stoloff.

Staff Present: Barrett, Grimes, Sanders, Housing Director Barton.

ORDER OF AGENDA

The Communication item on the Creeks was moved to discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were 8 speakers. Mike Brodsky spoke on the MU-LI subcommittee report, asked to delay the public hearing and called for a community-based approach. Jane Williamson spoke on behalf of Peter Walker and supported re-convening the West Berkeley subcommittee. Doug Hearst from Peerless Lighting spoke supporting the arts in Berkeley and indicated a concern that the process appeared top down, without community involvement. Corliss Lesser, representing the 800 Heinz artisans, spoke about zoning changes, and how allowing offices to move in will force artists out. Stephen Block spoke on the MU-LI report and stated that the public has been left out of the process and that the workshop and West Berkeley Plan group process needs to be reinstated. Susan Libby, of Libby Labs, reminded the Commission that there are businesses in West Berkeley that are surviving and offer jobs. She urges the Commission to support industry in West Berkeley. John Peterson spoke on the need to be sensitive and strategic, and to not use planning tools to eliminate a sector as a mix of uses that can change and grow is important. Richard Brooks spoke about the need for a certain level of office space in Berkeley and the need for a broad tax base. Office provides more revenue to the city.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Planning Director Barrett reported on the following item:

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The City Manager has requested that the Director spend more time on the development review process, which will impact the time available to work on Planning Commission priorities.

FUTURE AGENDAS

The Razor Spike Fence item has been moved to the meeting of May 28, 2003.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2003 meeting (Wengraf/Curl). Ayes: Allamby, Bronstein, Curl, Tabb, Wengraf, Noes: None. Abstentions: Pollack, Poschman, Wiggins. Absent: Stoloff.

MU-LI SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Bronstein outlined the framework for the discussion and explained the handouts. The Commission then went through the recommendations in turn, discussing both the recommendations and the history leading to each. Commissioners asked questions of the subcommittee, identified additional data that would be desirable, and debated the format for public input.

M/S Withdrawn to set a public hearing on the Subcommittee recommendations (Curl/Poschman)

M/S/C to have a workshop on the MU-LI Subcommittee recommendations at the meeting of June 11th. (Tabb/Poschman) Ayes: Allamby, Bronstein, Curl, Pollack, Poschman, Tabb, Wengraf, Wiggins. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Stoloff.

REPEAL OF RENTAL-TO-CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION PROVISIONS

Housing Director Barton summarized the discussion from the previous meeting and outlined the intent of the proposal. The Commission asked questions and discussed the proposal and the policy issues raised.

M/S/C to recommend to the Council that no change be made in the regulations (Tabb/Wengraf). Ayes: Allamby, Pollack, Tabb, Wengraf, Wiggins. Noes: None. Abstentions: Bronstein, Curl, Poschman. Absent: Stoloff.

**COUNCIL REFERRAL ON CREEKS ORDINANCE STRENGTHENING
(MOVED TO DISCUSSION)**

The Commission discussed the City Attorney's memo, and asked questions regarding the Planning implications. Director Barrett advised the Commission that a meeting is

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94 scheduled for April 28th to review a new definition that should provide some flexibility
95 around when construction may be permitted. Information will be provided to the
96 Commission as it becomes available.

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98 **ADJOURNMENT**

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100 Meeting was adjourned at 10:15.