

**APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 9, 2005**

1 Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Burke.

2
3 Location: North Berkeley Senior Center.

4
5 **ROLL CALL**

6
7 Commissioners Present: Burke, Poschman, Samuels, Sheen, Shumer, Stoloff, Wengraf
8 (left at 8:20), Wrenn.

9
10 Commissioners Absent: Pollack.

11
12 Staff Present: Gatzke, Homrighausen, Stroshane (Housing Dept.), Micallef (Housing
13 Dept.), Lee (West Berkeley Bowl planner), Nicholson (EIR consultant).

14
15 **ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

16
17 Items 11 and 12 were moved to the Action agenda, following item no. 9. Discussion of
18 the letter from Chris Hudson was moved to follow item no. 12.

19
20 **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

21
22 None.

23
24 **PLANNING STAFF REPORT**

25
26 None.

27
28 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

29
30 Acting Chair Burke said she will be stepping down from the BART Transit Area citizen
31 advisory committee, and another commissioner will be needed to serve on the committee.

32
33 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

34
35 **Creeks Task Force**

36 Commissioner Burke said the Task Force continues to work on an opinion survey and a
37 schedule for bringing work before the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission
38 will be given information as more areas of consensus are reached.

39
40 **Density Bonus Subcommittee**

41 Commissioner Wengraf said the next joint meeting of the Density Bonus Subcommittee
42 will be Tuesday November 22 from 3-5:30 p.m.

43
44 **Downtown BART Plaza and Transit Area Design Plan Citizens Advisory Committee**

45 Commissioner Burke said the first meeting was October 27.

46

**APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 9, 2005**

47 **Downtown Area Plan Citizen Advisory Committee**

48
49 The first meeting is scheduled Monday Nov. 21. Five Planning Commissioners are
50 appointed to the group, and Planning staff is consulting with the City Attorney to be sure
51 Brown Act requirements for public notification of meetings will be complied with.

52
53 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

54
55 M/S/C to approve the minutes for October 19, 2005. (Poschman/Sheen) Ayes: Burke,
56 Poschman, Samuels, Sheen, Shumer, Stoloff, Wengraf, Wrenn. Noes: None.
57 Abstentions: None. Absent: Pollack.

58
59 M/S/C to approve the minutes for October 26, 2005, with one change.
60 (Poschman/Shumer) Ayes: Burke, Poschman, Samuels, Sheen, Shumer, Stoloff,
61 Wengraf. Noes: None. Abstentions: Wrenn. Absent: Pollack.

62
63 **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

64
65 Principal Planner Gatzke requested that if commissioners have questions about the
66 Transportation Services Fee, that they send questions to Janet Homrighausen to be
67 relayed to the Transportation staff.

68
69 **West Berkeley Bowl Draft Environmental Impact Report**

70
71 EIR consultant Nicholson summarized the purpose of the meeting and the steps in the
72 EIR process. The commission received comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
73 Report from the public.

74
75 Speaker # 1: Sandy Simon spoke in support of the project and commented it is a mistake
76 for the traffic to come off 9th St. She thought Berkeley Bowl should consider operating
77 attended, secure bike parking to keep customers' bikes from being stolen.

78
79 Speaker #2: Sally Drach, parent of a student at Ecole Bilingue, spoke in favor of the
80 project provided satisfactory measures are adopted with respect to traffic safety and
81 parking.

82
83 Speaker #3: Betsy Dixon, parent of a student at Ecole Bilingue, indicated she concurred
84 with Ms. Drach.

85
86 Speaker #4: Christine Swett, parent of a student at Ecole Bilingue, indicated she
87 concurred with Ms. Drach.

88
89 Speaker #5: Eron Ersch spoke in favor of the project and specifically commented that he
90 believes the amount of earth that needs to be moved has been underestimated by 50 – 100
91 %. He also said the air quality analysis should address proximity to children.

**APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 9, 2005**

92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136

Speaker #6: Jennifer Monaghan, parent of an Ecole Bilingue student, indicated she concurred with Ms. Drach.

Speaker # 7: Janice Kim, a pediatrician and expert in air pollution exposure at CalEPA, said there will be increases in toxic pollutants, and asked that the analysis consider exposure of children.

Speaker #8: Christine Staples spoke in favor of the project. She commented that making wholesome food available is a matter of economic justice.

Speaker #9: Natalie Studer, a public health nutritionist, spoke in support of the project and hoped that the environmental issues addressed will include access to food in west Berkeley, an underserved area.

Speaker #10: Weegie McAdam, who lives on 8th St., was concerned that other planned development would also impact the area, that the parking proposed for Berkeley Bowl is too little, and that area traffic already operates at capacity.

Speaker #11: David Bowie, representing Ecole Bilingue, said the school's main concern is traffic at 9th and Heinz, and 9th going north from Heinz.

Speaker #12: Mary Lou Van Deventer said the intersection at 7th and Ashby is over capacity, and additional comments would be submitted in writing.

Speaker # 13: Zelda Bronstein said she believes traffic volumes are underestimated, and it is not clear how recent demolition of structures on the site relates to the project description in the DEIR, which says the project included demolition of existing structures.

Letter from Chris Hudson concerning Transportation Service Fee

The Planning Commission discussed the letter and asked staff to ask Mr. Hudson for additional clarification.

Letter from ABAG concerning Schedule for Regional Housing Need Assessment

The Planning Commission discussed the letter from ABAG concerning new time frames for the Regional Housing Need Assessment and next Housing Element update.

Alameda County-Wide Homeless and Special Needs Housing Plan Presentation

Housing Department staff Tim Stroshane and Jane Micallef gave a presentation on the plan and responded to questions.

**APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 9, 2005**

137 **ADJOURNMENT**

138 The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

139

140 Note on Commission Meeting Reporting:

141 In June 2005, the City Council adopted a plan which requires commission secretaries to
142 submit an annual report which summarizes for each meeting a) the number of
143 commissioners in attendance, b) the number of members of the public in attendance, c)
144 the number of speakers at Public Comment and d) the length of the meetings.

145

146 For the November 9, 2005 Planning Commission meeting, the following will be reported:

147 Commissioners in attendance: 8

148 Members of the public in attendance: 56

149 Speakers at Public Comment: 0

150 Length of the meeting: 2 hour 30 minutes