

FINAL MINUTES OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

May 23, 2007

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

2 Location: North Berkeley Senior Center.

3 **ROLL CALL**

4 Commissioners Present: Bauce, Ferrazares, Gurley, Pollack, Poschman, Samuels,
5 Weissman (for Burke), Williams (for Stoloff).

6 Commissioners Absent: Wengraf

7 Staff Present: Marks, Gatzke, Harrison, Wolff

8 **ORDER OF THE AGENDA** – No change.

9 **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – No public comment.

10 **PLANNING STAFF REPORT**

11 Secretary Harrison reported the proposed work plan would go before the City Council on
12 June 19. In addition, the proposed zoning amendments to allow for in-lieu fees for
13 required inclusionary units on projects that received incentives and concessions under
14 State Density Bonus Law are no longer proposed because other mechanisms are available
15 to allow the two approved projects to pay in-lieu fees without obtaining incentives or
16 concessions.

17 **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT** – None.

18 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

19 **Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee** - Chair Samuels indicated that the draft
20 Sustainability Chapter of DAPAC is still being commented on and the main issue of
21 debate is the level of development intensity that is right for the downtown.

22 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

23 M/S/C to approve the draft minutes of May 9, 2007 (Pollack/Poschman). Ayes: Bauce,
24 Ferrazares, Gurley, Pollack, Poschman, Samuels, Weissman (for Burke), Williams (for
25 Stoloff). Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wengraf.

26 **UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS** – The Commission discussed the next steps for review
27 and comment on the AC Transit Draft EIR on the proposed Bus Rapid Transit Plan,
28 including the special meeting on May 23, the regular meeting of June 13 when they may
29 provide formal comments, and the AC Transit public hearing on June 14.

30 **ACTION ITEMS**

31 **Item 9: Presentation on Renovation of the Clark Kerr Residential Buildings.**

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32 Beth Piatnitzka, Associate Director of Physical and Environmental Planning at U.C.
33 Berkeley, presented on the Clark Kerr Campus Renewal Project.

34 **Item 10: Preparation of Measure G Workshop.**

35 Timothy Burroughs, Climate Action Coordinator of the City of Berkeley, provided an
36 overview of the proposed process for developing a community-wide green house gas
37 reduction plan consistent with Measure G, a voter approved measure that seeks to reduce
38 80% of the greenhouse gases in the City of Berkeley by 2050, including workshops
39 before the City’s various Boards and Commissions that focus on the green house gas-
40 related issues that are most relevant to them.

41 **Item 11: ABAG Priority Development Area Application process.**

42 Planning Director Dan Marks requested direction from the Commission regarding
43 whether the City should apply to the Association of Bay Area Governments/Metropolitan
44 Transportation Commission to establish Priority Development Area(s) (PDA) within
45 Berkeley, specifically the Downtown area, in order to be eligible for the distribution of
46 some November 2006 State Bond funds. He indicated that the Downtown area zoning
47 and General Plan designations already satisfy the “smart growth” criteria needed in order
48 to be considered a PDA. The Commission discussed the potential downside of
49 designating certain areas of the city, including the Downtown, San Pablo Avenue and the
50 Ashby Bart station, as well as what kinds of things could be funded. The Commission
51 considered making their recommendation dependant upon the DAPAC’s
52 recommendation but did not include this in the recommendation to staff.

53 M/S/F to instruct staff to go through the process of applying for designation of the
54 Downtown as a PDA based on current General Plan and Zoning Ordinance densities
55 (Gurley/Pollack). Ayes: Gurley, Pollack, Samuels, Williams (for Stoloff). Noes:
56 Ferrazares, Poschman, Weissman (for Burke). Abstain: Bauce. Absent: Wengraf.

57 M/S/Withdrawn to request staff to begin evaluating areas within the City for inclusion in
58 a later application for PDA designation, should a later round of designation occur, and
59 monitor the legislature’s activity (Poschman/Ferrazares).

60 **ADJOURNMENT**

61 **The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**

62 For the May 23, 2007 Planning Commission meeting, the following will be reported:

63 Commissioners in attendance: 8

64 Members of the public in attendance: 5

65 Public Speakers: 0

66 Length of the meeting: 1 hour 55 minutes