



Planning Commission

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
May 1, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

**Location:** North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Blaine Merker, Jeff Vincent, Chip Moore, Christina Oatfield, Shannon Allen, Alfred Twu, and Savlan Hauser.

**Commissioner Absent:** Elisa Mikiten (excused), Emily Marthinsen (excused), and Barnali Ghosh (excused).

**Staff Present:** Secretary Alisa Shen, Clerk Zoe Covello, Justin Horner, Brian Garvey, Eleanor Hollander, and Liz Redman Cleveland.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Chochen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

**ORDER OF AGENDA:** No changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** 0.

**PLANNING STAFF REPORT:**

- 33 • Welcome Brian Garvey, clerk of ZAB, who will be rotating into clerking for the
- 34 Planning Commission.
- 35 • Justin Horner was recently promoted to Principal Planner, and will be co-secretary of
- 36 the Planning Commission.
- 37 ○ Justin will be secretary for June, July, and September. Reminder that there is
- 38 no meeting in August
- 39 • There are two meetings scheduled in June:
- 40 ○ June 5
- 41 1. Housing staff and consultants will present analysis on changes to
- 42 affordable housing in lieu fee, as well as discrete change to Berkeley
- 43 municipal ordinance (this will be a public hearing)
- 44 a. There will first be a work session schedule with City Council on
- 45 May 21
- 46 2. Office of Emergency Services staff will present on the draft Local
- 47 Hazard Mitigation Plan
- 48 3. Planning staff will present on the new Safety Element Update,
- 49 Environmental Justice Element, and Equitable Climate and Resilience
- 50 Metrics project
- 51 ○ June 26 – Special Meeting
- 52 1. Draft manufacturing Research and Development zoning district and the
- 53 draft EIR for the zone (this will be a public hearing)
- 54 a. This was first presented in February 2023
- 55 b. Ranked by council as #1 referral
- 56 c. It must be brought at this time to align with the public comment
- 57 period
- 58 • Reminder that the subsequent meeting is July 17
- 59 • In the supplemental communication packet is a notice of a City Council public hearing
- 60 to review the City’s Annual Action Plan for program year 2024 (required by the U.S.
- 61 Department of Housing and Urban Development).

62 **Information Items:** None.

63 **Communications:**

- 64 • None.

65 **Late Communications:**

- 66 • Supplemental 1.

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68 • **CHAIR REPORT:**

- 69 • None.

70 • **COMMITTEE REPORT:** Reports by Commission committees or liaisons. In addition to the  
71 items below, additional matters may be reported at the meeting.

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73 • None.

74 **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

75 Motion/Second/Carried (Oatfield/Hauser) to approve the Planning Commission Meeting  
76 Minutes from April 3, 2024.

77

78 Ayes: Vincent, Moore, Oatfield, Allen, Twu, and Hauser. Noes: None. Abstain: Merker. Absent:  
79 Marthinsen and Ghosh. (6-0-1-2)

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81 **9. OTHER PLANNING RELATED EVENTS:**

82 • Commissioner Merker shared that Will “Trav” Travis passed away last week. Mr.  
83 Travis was head of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development  
84 Commission (BCDC) for many years and was actively engaged in the North Berkeley  
85 BART station redevelopment project as a resident of North Berkeley. Commissioner  
86 Merker expressed that he hopes Mr. Travis’s visioning and advocacy has made it  
87 into the project.

88

89 **AGENDA ITEMS**

90 **10. Discussion: Keep Innovation in Berkeley**

91 Economic Development Manager Eleanor Hollander and Chief Strategist for Sustainable Growth  
92 Elizabeth Redman Cleveland presented on the Keep Innovation in Berkeley Council referral and  
93 proposed zoning ordinance amendments. The Commissioners took public comment, asked  
94 questions, and provided feedback on the proposed amendments.

95 **Public Comments: 6**

96 Motion/Second/Carried (Vincent/Moore) to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.

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98 Ayes: Merker, Vincent, Moore, Oatfield, Allen, Twu, and Hauser. Noes: None. Abstain: None.  
99 Absent: Marthinsen and Ghosh. (7-0-0-2)

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101 **Members in the public in attendance: 10**

102 **Public Speakers: 6**

103 **Length of the meeting: 1 hr 51 min**