

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS



NEWSLETTER No. 1

DECEMBER 1975

BERKELEY, CALIF.

TWENTY-EIGHT NEIGHBORHOODS PARTICIPATING

The following neighborhood associations have been participating actively in the Council of Neighborhood Associations:

Arch Street	Northgate
Bateman	Ocean View
Cedar Street	Park Hills
Claremont-Elmwood (CENA)	Parker Street
Cow Hollow	Panoramic Hill
Daley Scenic Park	Prince Street
Edith Street	San Pablo
Flatlands	Solano-Peralta
Hillside	Thousand Oaks
LeConte	Walker Street Plus
Live Oak	Walnut
McGee	Warring Street
NOBBS	Westbrae
North East Berkeley (NEBA)	Willard Park



THE COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS - A BRIEF BACKGROUND

An earlier Council of Neighborhoods came into being in May of 1973. The traffic study was underway with its focus on neighborhoods. An intense slate- and issue-oriented City election was just over. New zoning hearing requirements and a revised Master Plan were now opportunities with the passing of the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.

This previous Council of Neighborhoods functioned for five or six months over such issues as how the Master Plan Revision was to be conducted, a community housing corporation, the traffic study, the D'Army Bailey recall, special programs on KPFA for neighborhood concerns. But the attendance dwindled to the point where there was no longer a Council.

Even afterwards, however, contacts made then allowed several neighborhoods to join over such matters as 7-11 stores, drive-in teller windows, the Charles Dorr Tot-lot, Raiders' games, and, of course, traffic.

Meanwhile, the role of neighborhoods increased. As the traffic study went through the Planning Commission, neighborhood groups formed to oppose certain controls, entire areas petitioned and testified for controls. The Master Plan Revision encouraged neighborhood participation with newsletters, provided special staff to be liaisons with neighborhood residents and groups, and urged the development of neighborhood plans. The zoning office expanded notification of hearings beyond immediately-affected sites to include organizations. In October of last year, a 40-member citizens group, with ten neighborhood groups included, was set up by the City Council to advise how \$2.8 million in federal Revenue Sharing money was to be spent.

By the end of 1974, neighborhood identity and the need to coordinate neighborhood energies had greatly increased. The growing awareness of something called "neighborhood issues" prompted members of several neighborhood organizations to call meetings to consider running candidates in the coming City elections. Several of these meetings indicated that efforts to get an entire neighborhood to support a particular candidate would be divisive. Also, Berkeley politics were in high gear by then, which preempted issues and energy.

Still, there was the need for neighborhoods to share information and to lobby for neighborhood interests. So, after the April elections, a new Council of Neighborhood Associations was set up with by-laws, election of officers, regular meetings, dues for mailing costs, and, at last, a newsletter.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTICIPATION ELEMENT

A "Neighborhood Participation Element" is now part of the Master Plan Revision Committee's final version of the Master Plan.

Participation of neighborhoods in four areas of Berkeley's "planning process" is described: neighborhood plans, budget process, project contracts, and land use and zoning regulation. The specific element will be available as soon as the Committee's final reworking is typed up.

An aspect of the element which is of particular significance to CNA is the role of a "neighborhood-initiated, city-wide association of neighborhood groups." While this city-wide body "should be supported by the City," its function would be to "coordinate, review, and evaluate neighborhood plans for the purpose of encouraging cooperative planning, solving mutual problems, and facilitating the development of plans which do not conflict with one another."

A similar function would be carried out in dealing with individual neighborhood budget proposals.

The city-wide body would have no specific powers, and individuals as well as neighborhood groups could deal directly with city bodies and departments. Specifics of the implementation of these policies are to be worked out over the next one or two years.

This element is one of the most important in the proposed Master Plan revision. The implications for CNA as well as individual neighborhoods are extensive. Careful thought about the element is needed in preparation for the January public hearings. Some sort of "Planning Process Element" will be part of the new Master Plan; what kind of process it will be will depend on what is broadly supported and, for that matter, not supported.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

What is being done with this \$2.8 million in federal grant funds? The Housing Advisory and Appeals Board will hold two meetings on use of CDRS funds during December and hold further public hearings during January.

At the first workshop, this Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 AM to 4PM the Staff and Department heads will be trying to justify and expand their budgets and the HAAB will be trying to evaluate their performance and whether their output merits the input of federal funds. This meeting will take place in City Council Chambers.

The second workshop will focus on community development needs in Berkeley. Citizens are encouraged to present their views, expectations, and evaluations of the CDRS funded programs. This workshop will take place Thurs, Dec 11, 1975, 7:30 PM at West Berkeley Branch Library, 1125 University Avenue.

This is one of few occasions to see city departments explaining their budget requests to a citizen body. Don't miss this unusual event.

MASTER PLAN PUBLICITY

The Master Plan Revision Committee is now finishing the final draft of the proposed Master Plan. The new draft Master Plan should be available for distribution by the end of December. At the November 5 Planning Commission meeting Bob Holtzapple argued that a sufficient number of copies of the draft Plan should be available for every Berkeley citizen. He moved (second by Veronika Fukson) that: "A sufficient number of copies of the draft Master Plan be printed for each individual and each community group wanting one."

The motion passed and should ensure that an adequate number of copies will be printed. But due to the tight budget it will be too expensive to mail this document to every household. To keep down costs to the city (and thus to ourselves) many neighborhood associations have volunteered to distribute copies of the draft Plan throughout their neighborhoods.

Below are listed the neighborhoods which have volunteered and the quantities they are undertaking to distribute. Neighborhoods wishing to distribute copies to residents in their areas should contact Mary Jane Goodban at the Planning Department, 2030 Milvia, phone 845-1877.

Don't have your neighborhood left out of this important planning process; see that your neighborhood gets leafletted with copies of the draft Master Plan.

Bateman (500)	North Berkeley (1000)
Cedar Street (300)	Panoramic Hill (150)
CENA (1500)	San Pablo (1000)
Cow Hollow (500)	Savo Island (?)
Flatlands (2200)	Solano-Peralta (500)
Hillside (500)	SUDS (2200)
LeConte (1000)	Thousand Oaks (1150)
NOBBS (1800)	Warring Street (150)
NEBA (5000)	Willard Park (?)
Northgate (900)	

That's more than 20,000 so far.



INSTANT ANALYSIS

We will have very little time to react to the draft Master Plan. Copies won't get out to residents until after January 1, but the tentative Hearing Schedule for the Master Plan calls for six public hearings between January 19 and January 31. The neighborhood associations and general public will have very little time to examine, evaluate and respond to the Plan after it becomes available. Every missed deadline and delay is now being made up by cutting to an unconscionable minimum the time available for the public to respond to it. We will have to engage in an "instant analysis" of the Plan.

For the
love of
Mike...



Suggested actions

1. Seek a longer period of hearings.
2. CNA set up a working committee to start evaluation of the Master Plan as soon as copies become available.
3. CNA conduct a special public workshop on the Master Plan during January, before the public hearings begin.

THE NEW BERKELEY CORPORATION

This is a non-profit community development corporation focusing on revitalizing the central business district. It has set up a Board of Directors, Community Advisory Board, and has a team of consultants. They prepared a slide presentation which they have been showing to a number of business and professional groups. They have submitted a proposal to the San Francisco Foundation for planning funds. Of interest to adjoining neighborhoods will be their planned "study of existing and new feasible parking facilities."

(Key document: "The New Berkeley Corporation and Proposed Project: The BerkeleyCenter." New Berkeley Corp., 1664 Shattuck; phone 845-0668)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARINGS

HOUSING ELEMENT- Planning Commission Hearing on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., West Campus Auditorium (University and Bonar). Copies now available from Planning Dept. 2030 Milvia. (Note that this is Phase 1 of the Housing Element and only includes goals and policies, not implementation.)

THE BERKELEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

While the attention of the neighborhood associations has been focused on the preparation of the revised Master Plan, a separate effort has gotten under way to develop an economic development plan for Berkeley. Unlike the Master Plan development, however, it is not planned to allow neighborhood participation in the development of this plan or to permit their representation on the advisory committee until the planning is finished.

The city has hired an economic planning specialist, Richard Jenner, who began work on October 6. The economic planning staff has met with the Berkeley-Albany Industries Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the New Berkeley Corporation, and other such groups to secure the cooperation of business and industry representatives in project activities. The October 15 progress report to the City Council makes no mention of contact with neighborhood associations.

The Economic Planning staff proposes to put together a Technical Advisory Committee composed of interested Council members, business, financial, and industrial leaders in Berkeley, and University resources as appropriate. Again no mention of participation by neighborhood representatives. The October 15 report concludes by saying that only when the economic plan is presented to Council in June 1976 and the planning process is developed should we get broader citizen participation in economic development planning.

This restriction and limitation of neighborhood input is especially disturbing because the progress report indicates that the "final economic plan" which will be presented in June will include five elements, one of which is: "Recommend changes, if any, in proposed policies in the Master Plan Elements, wherever they might conflict with the goals of the Economic Plan." This statement suggests that the Economic Plan will be the guiding master plan overruling all other considerations. If this is to be the case, the neighborhoods should be adequately represented in the process of developing the Economic Plan.

(The key document to study on this issue is the October 15 Memorandum to City Manager John Taylor from Planning Director Tom Peak, titled "Council Referral on Economic Development Activities." This was part of the Council packet for the November 25 Council workshop on economic planning.)



ban

Neighborhood

Residents

PROJECT WILDFLOWER

Much vacant land in Berkeley has been growing weeds and accumulating trash, awaiting public decisions on what to do with the land. Berkeley should have a procedure for putting to some aesthetic use these vacant parcels in the interim. One possibility would be to sow them with seeds of native California flowers in a mixture that would assure successive blooms as early-flowering species faded. If we had such a procedure now we could have fields of flowers stretching along the Hearst strip from the edge of the Central Business District to the Albany border. This is a more desirable state of affairs than the present BART practice of spraying these vacant lands with a defoliant to prevent growth of weeds--or anything else--for up to a year at a time. Let's make these parcels a flowering land rather than a wasteland.



PERIOD REVIVAL
'ENGLISH TUDOR'

CITY COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

The following commissions and committees had unappointed positions as of November 25. Councilmembers who have not appointed are listed beneath each title. For information about a particular commission, contact the City Clerk's office. If anyone is interested in being appointed, contact the City Clerk or the appropriate Councilmember.

Ad Hoc Citizen's Committee on Berkeley Camps
Widener, Denton, Hone, Ramsey

Board of Adjustments
Widener

Cable TV
Hone

Child Health & Disability Prevention Board
Hancock

Citizen Advisory Committee on Local Transit
Hone, Ramsey, Rumford

Citizen's Committee on Undergrounding Utilities
Kelly, Hone, Hancock, Denton

City Art Commission
Widener, Davis, Ramsey

Commission on Aging
Widener, Dean, Denton, Hone, Ramsey, Rumford

Commission on Employment & Training
Widener

Community Health Advisory Commission
Widener, Dean, Hone, Ramsey, Rumford

Human Relations & Welfare Commission
Hone

Landmarks Preservation Committee
Dean, Ramsey

Personnel Board
Widener, Davis

Recreation Commission
Widener, Dean, Ramsey

Solid Waste Management Commission
Davis, Denton, Hancock, Kelly, Ramsey

Waterfront Advisory Board
Davis

Police Review Commission
Dean, Hone, Ramsey

Fair Campaign Practices Commission
Widener, Davis, Dean, Hancock, Ramsey

#1 1715 La Loma, 8:00, Dec. 17

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS



Linda Thomason } next time
Andy Sun -

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Council of Neighborhoods Association meeting will take place on MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, at 7:30 PM, in Jefferson School Cafetorium, corner of Rose and Acton Streets.

Agenda

1. Master Plan Revision - progress & publicity, the time crunch
 - a. distribution of the draft Master Plan
 - b. neighborhood analysis of the Plan; proposal for an evaluation subcommittee
 - c. special workshop on Master Plan; inviting planners to talk on pro and con of the Plan (Henry Pancoast)
2. Neighborhood Planning Process (John Hart)
3. Berkeley Unified School District Problems - recommendations for scope of a fact-finding committee (Ed Nakamura) *not here*
4. Berkeley's Economic Development Plan and the New Berkeley Corporation
 - a. composition of the citizen advisory body on the Economic Plan (Henry Pancoast)
5. Neighborhood Traffic Plan



6. Proposed ordinance regulating private property on sidewalks (Joe Rhoades)
7. New business. _____ paper

election next time

— Hilder