

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

"TO LET THE NEIGHBORHOODS KNOW WHAT'S COMING DOWN BEFORE IT LANDS ON THEM"

Newsletter No. 5

April, 1976

Berkeley, Calif.

NORTH HILLS EXPRESSWAY ADVOCATED

Citizens Against Barricades (CAB), the sponsors of the anti-traffic control initiative, has endorsed a bold new traffic plan for free access and increased circulation in North Berkeley.

Dr.'s Robert Fink and Max Alfert, representing CAB at a public meeting attended by more than 100 persons March 31st, endorsed construction of a new expressway providing free access to North Berkeley from Contra Costa County. The Fink-Alfert expressway would link the existing Gateway Boulevard off-ramp on Highway 24 with Grizzly Peak Boulevard in North Berkeley. This plan would eliminate the inconvenience and frustration now experienced by drivers who must cross congested South Berkeley to reach their destinations in the North Campus Area, El Cerrito, Albany, Richmond, etc. The construction of this link with Contra Costa County would increase the desirability of low-income housing in the North Hills championed by Dr. and Mrs. Fink since their arrival in Berkeley. Interesting possibilities exist for commercial zoning at the expressway interchange and along well traveled routes.

Janice Linhares, CENA.

BERKELEY GAZETTE NEIGHBORHOOD PAGE

Beginning April 21, the Gazette will carry a new page featuring stories, opinion, and events in Berkeley's neighborhoods. All the material on the Neighborhood Page will be produced by residents and representatives of the neighborhoods, coordinated by the Council of Neighborhood Associations. You do not need to be a member of an organized group to submit material. The only restrictions are that material submitted must be typewritten, double-spaced, and no more than three pages; also, each story or other feature must have the name, address, and telephone number of the writer or a contact person. (The phone number will not be printed unless so requested.) Among the features of the Neighborhood Page will be a calendar of coming events in, and of concern to, the neighborhoods; a series of articles by neighborhood associations about who they are and what they do; and a "letters" column. The page will be bi-weekly (every other Wednesday) at first, becoming weekly when the amount of material justifies it. Photos, cartoons, and illustrations are welcome. Material may be mailed to CNA Chairperson Glenn Harris, 1505 Keoncrest Drive, Berkeley, CA 94702 or directly to Neighborhood Page, Berkeley Gazette, Box 241, Berkeley, CA 94701. All material must be received by the Saturday before publication.

Glenn Harris, NOBBS

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION ORDINANCE(LPO) DEMOLISHED!

According to City Manager Taylor and City Attorney Johnson a request for designation for landmark status does not prevent demolition of the building while landmark status is under consideration. The LPO provides no protection for a building until after it has been designated a landmark. C-M stated that demolition permits must and will be issued for buildings on which landmark designation has been initiated if requested by the owners. Thus, for example, if a demolition permit were requested for the First Church of Christian Scientists prior to the completion of designation for landmark status it would be granted with the same speed that occurred in the Barker House Case.

Given the C-M and City Attorney view of the LPO the most dangerous single action one can take on a landmark would be to file for designation which simply alerts the owner to the need to quickly demolish his property. If you plan to file to initiate a designation have your lawyer prepare a temporary restraining order before you file. Also get a statement from the City Attorney that you have filed the proper forms and have signatures verified. This is important because administrative practice to date has been to accept petitions that did not meet the requirements of the LPO but not to tell the petitioners until they complained about the demolition of the building they sought to save.

Henry Pancoast

COMMITTEE (kO-mit'ē) n. a collection of the unfit chosen from the unwilling by the incompetent to do the unnecessary.

CLARIFICATION

With reference to the February 17 vote of the City Council on the Residential Rental Inspection Program, it should be made clear that although Loni Hancock and John Denton were absent when the final vote was taken they had left only shortly before, when it became clear that the majority would pass the program unchanged. Throughout the long evening, they and Ying Kelly supported--both diligently and intelligently--the changes which NOBBS and others desired to improve the program.

Glenn Harris, NOBBS

SLURPING IS LIVING??

Oh good heaven, not another 7-Eleven! Apparently so: the Southland Corporation has bought the gas station at Rose and Grove. We may soon see requests for variances to allow late-night operation in this neighborhood shopping area.

Just what the North Grove Neighborhood wants and needs: another traffic generator and a late-night one at that.

Look out, North Grove! The Slurpees are coming!

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

The anatomy of any organization includes four kinds of bones:

1. Wish-bones. Those who will go along with an idea, but want someone else to do the work.
2. Jaw-bones. Talk much, but do little else.
3. Knuckle-bones. Who knock everything everyone else does.
4. Back-bones. Who get behind the wheel and do the work.

PLANNING COMMISSION & THE MASTER PLAN

Aiming for a July 31 completion date for a document for fall hearings, the Commission is relentlessly grinding through an "add" - "leave out" - "okay" process of reviewing staff material.

Basic issues of assumptions, goals, economic priorities, jobs, pricing people out of the City, and residential amenities — while not resolved — are "out on the table". How the elements will deal with these issues will be work to take the Commission right smack up to their deadline.

Here are some highlights of the first two meetings:

JULY 31 AND THE NPO

The date is a target date to prevent the work dragging out. The intent is not to submit a document to the Council as a final product or even as something the Council will "return" to the Commission. As Chairperson Culver said: "They just get to look at it ... sort of a progress report." What the Council thinks remains to be seen.

The Comm. does not want the NPO to lapse before they are entirely through with their work — including hearings. To clear other confusion on the NPO, they asked the City Attorney to give her interpretation of "final acceptance" by the Council as marking the end of the NPO.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The staff recommendation that there be — on a preliminary basis — a separate citizen participation element was not rejected by the Commission. During later discussion, members said that the plan was to be a "people document" and there there would be emphasis on citizen participation.

Staff grasp of the issues continues vague with comments about the present neighborhood participation element being; The meaning of c.p. has not really been gotten into, will it work, is it coherent and timely.

BERKELEY AS A "CORE CITY"

Commissioners did not agree that Berkeley was a core city, that is, it was not an urban center. What staff meant by the phrase was that Berkeley was an employment center and involved with the activity of the area. What was missed was that "core city" also means the urban phenomenon of a high percentage of elderly, high level of poverty, a fleeing middle class, and crime.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The staff had "No timetable is laid out for plan realization." Most Commissioners wanted the phrase removed for various reasons. Culver seemed to contradict himself saying first he wants X number of years stated and then that what was important was how the plan would be implemented. Others wanted at least a timetable of long and short range goals.

ASSUMPTIONS

The working draft: "The size of Berkeley's population will not change, though its makeup will be characterized over the next 20 years by ... (4) fewer low income families." This was based on a staff perception of "a big concern with improvement, a big concern with density, a very high demand for housing and no matter how much assistance is provided — if that works at all. The Commission let it stand.

PRIORITIES

The Commission decided to put off the setting of priorities. The discussion did bring out that there was a basic issue about the role of economic vitality in relationship to other aspects of the City. What was "economics?" "Cute little streets vs jobs." Industrial expansion or contraction. What kind of an economic base? Is there a conflict or can each area have an appropriate balance?

The Commission will be holding its special Master Plan meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. To check on location, whether there are additional meetings, call the Planning Department at 644-6534.

John Hart

GOLDEN HARPES

Council of Neighborhood Associations
1715 Channing Way
Berkeley, Ca 94703

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS



NEW MEETING PLACE FOR THIS MEETING- West Berkeley Library

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Monday, April 12

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: West Berkeley Library
1125 University (1/2-block above San Pablo)

AGENDA

- ☒ AJOB Twilight Service Center - Mert Bautista
- ☒ Berkeley's Economic Plan - Richard Jenner
- ☒ Alternative Economic Development Possibilities - Bob Fabian
- ☒ Berkeley Gazette Neighborhood Page
- ☒ West Berkeley Industrial Park
- ☒ Neighborhood Residential Inspection Program
- ☒ Master Plan
- ☒ Neighborhood Preservation
- 9. Other Business
 - a. Candidate's Night???

NOTE that we are not meeting at Jefferson School this month, because April 12 is a school holiday. If you know anyone who regularly comes, but does not receive a newsletter, please tell them!

need
committee

May 10

GTU

Chris Hoskins