

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

NEWSLETTER NO. 9

NOV. 1976

Berkeley, CA.

"To Let the Neighborhoods Know What's Coming Down Before It Lands on Them"

Hearst Strip Developments

The Hancock/Kelley/Dean committee of the City Council has reached tentative agreement with the BART General Manager about the disposition of BART's part of the Hearst Strip. The section between Milvia and Grove is to be traded to the city for air rights over the North Berkeley BART Station. The section between Grove and McGee is to be leased by the city for 10 years at \$1 a year, after which further arrangements will be made.

The Hearst Strip Park Committee remains worried about BART's ownership of the latter section. The committee feels the city should make a firm commitment to fully develop the section as parkland, to clearly establish that it should remain so 10 years from now and afterward.

The committee's petition drive on the Peralta-owned section of the Hearst Strip was very successful. 46 blocks near the Strip were covered. Out of 1462 households, 1240 were contacted and 1117 signed the petition. That's support from 90% of those contacted and 76½% of the total local community.

This petition and other supporting documents are being presented to the State Community College Board of Governors on October 27, in Sacramento. There will be a report at this CNA meeting on what happened there. Also, further letters of support will be solicited at the CNA meeting.

The City Council has voted to try to acquire the Peralta land and has assigned the Dean/Kelley/Hancock committee to meet with Peralta officials. One meeting has taken place.

Peralta has sent a letter to the Council stating that they are willing to consider alternatives if the city can find an alternative site within 30 days. A site search is going on now.

--Robert Hurwitt

APRIL INITIATIVES

A new rent control charter Amendment will be put forth as an initiative in the April 1977 election.

A second initiative will be a tenant union enabling act which will seek to establish legislation comparable to the National Labor Relations Act which regulates bargaining between management and labor. This initiative will regulate bargaining between landlords and tenants.

Prospects are good for a lively Spring campaign.

One Defendant Remains

The Green House defendants' cases are all settled (most dismissed) except for one. Stan Fukson's trial is scheduled to be assigned Wednesday, October 27, 9 a.m., Alameda County Court-house.

The presence of people concerned with justice for Stan would be very helpful during the days of the trial.

It is likely, but not definite, that the trial will begin within a day or so of the 27th. Please call either of the numbers below for information from Wednesday morning on:

LI 8-4382 (Coe)

LA 6-0998 (Raglan)

--Hildur Kehoe

Master Plan Before Planning Commission

In January and February of 1976, representatives of neighborhood associations and other concerned citizens participated in public hearings on the draft Master Plan prepared by the 18 members of the Master Plan Revision Committee (MPRC). They offered numerous suggestions that they hoped would be reflected in a new draft.

In April, the MPRC resigned to protest the lack of cooperation from staff and some members of the Planning Commission and what they described as an environment hostile to citizen participation. Following this, the Master Plan was turned over to the Planning Commission, who with the help of the Planning Department completed a draft of the Master Plan by midsummer.

The Planning Commission has scheduled three public hearings on the new plan. Little effort has been made to involve the public in this phase. Widespread noticing occurred only

after citizens complained at the first hearing! Some citizens, including representatives from Progressive Berkeley Neighbors, plan to make a presentation at the last hearing on October 28. They intend to request additional workshops to discuss the newest draft, possibly co-sponsored by PBN and the Council of Neighborhood Associations.

Further information on these workshops will be available at the CNA meeting and in the next newsletter.

--Julie Chapman

Hearing on Amending the WBIP Plan

Wednesday evening November 3rd at 8 p.m. the joint City Council/Redevelopment Agency is holding a hearing on the amendments embodied in Initiative Q, which passed in June.

This initiative legislation is still under court restraint due to the suit filed immediately after the June election by the (old) BRA.

However the Council is fully empowered, under State law, to legislate amendments to the WBIP plan after complying with certain preliminary requirements including this public hearing.

It is critical that the Council/BRA hear from individuals and groups in the city--loudly and clearly--on Wednesday night that the citizens want the plan amended NOW.

Please be there and plan to speak. Written statements are also very much to the point; you can turn them in in advance or bring 12 copies to the hearing.

--Hildur Kehoe

Community Development Revenue Sharing

Berkeley will receive approximately \$2.6 million in CDRS funds in the 77-78 fiscal year, to be parcelled out among city departments and public and private projects. In November, the Housing Advisory and Appeals Board (HAAB) will begin the 3 to 4 month process of meetings and hearings preparatory to making its recommendations to the City Council on revenue sharing allocations. The HAAB is designated by the Council as the city's citizen participation body for revenue sharing monies.

Any organization that is going to apply for revenue sharing block grant funding for 77-78 should get its proposal ready as soon as possible. City agencies get the lion's share of the dollars now, because they have the staff and facilities to crank out proposals and because they know the guidelines backwards and forwards. This year, HAAB recommended two community agencies, Berkeley Tenants' Organizing Committee and Center for Independent Living, for funding.

Neither was recommended by the City Manager. Both were accepted by the Council.

We want to do more of that this year. We want to open up the process. There is nothing in CDRS guidelines that dictates that city programs ought to monopolize the \$2.6 million. We encourage community and neighborhood groups to get their proposals in to the City Manager's office, care of Tom Cook, right away. December is really too late.

For information on CDRS guidelines, applicants should call Tom Cook, who is now in the City Manager's office, 644-6580. Not all neighborhoods or kinds of projects are eligible under federal guidelines.

To save time, if any organization has a problem with getting what they need from City Hall, I suggest they call me directly at 549-0247 or any other member of HAAB.

The HAAB will hold public hearings on the 77-78 CDRS application over the next few months. Dates and places of all public hearings or workshops will be advertised in local newspapers just as soon as a schedule is decided. In addition, every neighborhood organization will be mailed hearing announcements.

--Pat Devaney
Chairman, HAAB

Notes on the Situation...

Anyone who doesn't by now know about at least one of the two new political groups forming must not be on anybody's list. The two groups are Progressive Berkeley Neighbors and an as-yet-unnamed group originally convened by Councilmember Shirley Dean. The PBN, so far, is mostly flatlands people with a few hill participants; the other group, so far, has a few more hill people than flatlands participants.

The two groups differ substantially in style and somewhat in point of view. Both are concerned primarily with neighborhood issues and candidates in the April election. They are the two groups that CNA would have split into had we begun taking political positions; at least, this way, CNA still exists as a place to meet together once a month.

The tragedy will be if members of each group begin claiming that members of the other group aren't "really" neighborhood people. Anyone who cares about his or her neighborhood is a neighborhood person--and I think most people on both "sides" fit that description.

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MEETING NOTICE

Date: Monday, November 1, 1976

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: West Branch Library
1125 University Avenue

AGENDA

1. Reports and comments: rep from Fire Dept? *Lt. Beacham*
2. Hearst-Acton-Delaware-Franklin Neighborhood Council
3. West Berkeley Industrial Park
4. Peralta/Hearst Strip update
5. Social element of the Master Plan
6. Master Plan hearings/workshop?
7. Community Development Revenue Sharing
8. CNA economic study
9. New business
10. a. Two Initiatives for April 1977 election:
 - 1) Rent Control
 - 2) Tenant-Landlord Relations Board. - Dan Lambert