

Jacob, Melinda

Subject: FW: Comments for August 17, 2023 DRC projects

From: kelly hammargren <kellyhammargren@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 11:28 PM

To: Burns, Anne M <ABurns@berkeleyca.gov>

Subject: Comments for August 17, 2023 DRC projects

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Dear Members of the DRC and Secretary Anne Burns,

I am sorry, I will not be able to attend the August 17, 2023 DRC Meeting. Here are my comments on the three Projects.

1. 600 Addison - signage - please note that white LED light with blue light tone is the most detrimental to nature and wildlife. 600 Addison abuts Aquatic Park, an important habitat site for resident and migrating birds. Aquatic Park additionally is a location for annual butterfly counts. With these considerations, night lighting on 600 Addison must be considered carefully to minimize night light pollution. Here is the link to Dark Sky for outdoor lighting and LED lighting, (the recommendations are on the bottom of the page) <https://darksky.org/news/the-promise-and-challenges-of-led-lighting-a-practical-guide/>

2. 1652 University at Jefferson - no landscape plan was submitted. Please design the landscaping using native California plants and use permeable paving in all possible locations.

This is an excerpt from my January 8, 2023 Activist's Diary:

In 1923, a permit was taken for the West Gate Masonic Association to build a building on that corner (University and Jefferson) for the Masonic Lodge for African Americans. Objections arose from the neighbors who did not want African Americans at this site in any form and went so far as to pressure the City to change the zoning. The City Council did not approve the zoning change, but the construction stopped and the lot sat vacant for twenty-four years until the current commercial building was constructed in 1947.

Commissioner Finacom asked for a plaque to be at the site to commemorate the history, but was met with pushback and objections from Commission Chair Enchill, "So I think we can find those type of histories and stories throughout the city, and I don't think there's enough for me to that that's a particularly unique story that the developer should be required to provide a plaque here."

Commissioner Chair Enchill's statement that there is nothing particularly unique about the history of 1652 – 1658 University seems to be all the more reason to memorialize how racism ended building a Masonic Lodge for African Americans at the corner of University and Jefferson. How many other stories need to be told and memorialized?

<https://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2023-01-08/article/50141?headline=A-BERKELEY-ACTIVIST-S-DIARY-week-ending-January-8--Kelly-Hammargren>

I strongly support a plaque commemorating the history of this site and request that such a plaque be included in the conditions.

In my Activist's Diary I reference the article in the Atlantic on lessons for America from Holocaust Remembrance.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/12/holocaust-remembrance-lessons-america/671893/>

3. 2538 Durant - thank you for selecting native plants for the project.

The second level plantings appear to be only accessible through unit 212. Who and how will the plantings be maintained if the only access is through one of the dwelling units?

2538 Durant is a bonus density project (SB 330) which was submitted prior to the passage of the Bird Safe Glass Ordinance. Bird Safe glass was recommended. **The highest risk areas for bird glass collisions are the**

areas of the building in the front to the height of the trees and including eventual growth height and the windows and doors in proximity to the 2nd floor and rooftop plantings. It would be ideal to have bird safe glass/features for the entire building, but **at the very least bird safe features are needed for these high risk areas.** Remember, **exterior insect screens over windows are a bird safe feature** and satisfy the conditions for bird safe glass/features.

kelly hammargren