



Planning Commission

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
February 5, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

• **ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Jeff Vincent, Blaine Merker, Christina Oatfield, Charles Kahn, Alfred Twu, and Laurie Capitelli (Alternate for Emily Marthinsen)

**Commissioners Absent:** Emily Marthinsen (Excused), Darrell Owens (Excused), Savlan Hauser (Excused)

**Staff Present:** Secretary Justin Horner, Clerk Faye Messner, Alisa Shen, Jamie Albrecht, and Zoe Covello

**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:**

• None

• **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: 1**

- **PLANNING STAFF REPORT:**

- March 5 Meeting Agenda
  - Standard Conditions of Approval
  - ADU Discussion Item in response to HDC Letter and AB 1033
- Upcoming Event: February 10<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting on Preliminary Objective Design Standards for Ashby BART West Lot TOD
- Upcoming Council items:
  - February 25, SLTE and Affordable housing Fee
  - March 25, Gilman Gateway
- March: Final Council ranking of referrals
  - Councilmembers will submit votes on February 21

**Information Items:**

- None

**Communications:**

- General.

**Late Communications:**

- None

- **CHAIR REPORT:**

- Chair Vincent thanked everyone for attending and welcomed new members and the alternate Commissioner. The Chair noted changes to the Commission as a result of the election.

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

- None.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion/Second/Carried (Vincent/Two) to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2024.

Ayes: Vincent, Oatfield, Merker Two, Kahn and Capitelli. Noes: None. Abstain: None Absent: Marthinsen, Hauser, Owens. (6-0-0-3)

**9. OTHER PLANNING RELATED EVENTS:**

- None.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### 10. Public Hearing: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Principal Planner Alisa Shen and Emergency Services Coordinator Jamie Albrecht presented on the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and proposed technical edits the General Plan Safety Element to update the adoption year of the LHMP. Commissioners took public comment, asked questions and made comments including, but not limited to: Eucalyptus forests at the ridge of the hills, timing for updating the LHMP and whether it can be updated more frequently, and fire inspection, sea level rise, and tsunami risk programs and policies in the related Safety Element update.

Motions/Second/Carried (Vincent/Merker) to close the public hearing at 6:57pm.

Ayes: Vincent, Merker, Oatfield, Twu, Kahn and Capitelli. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Marthinsen, Hauser and Owens (6-0-0-3)

Motions/Second (Vincent/Kahn) to recommend staff's proposal to approve the LHMP and make a minor technical edit to amend the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element to reference the adoption year of the LHMP update to City Council, at 7:49 pm.

Ayes: Vincent, Merker, Oatfield, Twu, Kahn and Capitelli. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Marthinsen, Hauser and Owens (6-0-0-3)

**Public Comments: 0**

### 11. 2025 Nominations for March Election

Motions/Second (Vincent/Merker) to defer the nominations to the next meeting in March and hold elections at the following meeting in April at 7:06 pm.

Ayes: Vincent, Merker, Oatfield, Twu, Kahn and Capitelli. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Marthinsen, Hauser and Owens (6-0-0-3)

**Public Comments: 0**

Motions/Second/Carried (Merker/Vincent) adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Ayes: Vincent, Merker, Oatfield, Twu, Kahn and Capitelli. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Marthinsen, Hauser and Owens (6-0-0-3)

**Members in the public in attendance: 3**  
**Public Speakers: 1**  
**Length of the meeting: 1 hour 2 minutes**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Horner", written in a cursive style.

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Justin Horner, Planning Commission Secretary