

**EMERYVILLE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
ACTION RECAP
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2012**

I. CONVENE, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Gail Donaldson. Commissioners present: Lawrence Cardoza, Vanessa Kuemmerle, John Scheuerman, Steven Steinberg, Frank Flores, Gail Donaldson and Sean Moss.

II. SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER

City Clerk, Karen Hemphill, performed the swearing in ceremony of the new Commissioner, Sean Moss.

Director Bryant welcomed Commissioner Moss and commented that he had served on the Emeryville Bike and Pedestrian Committee and was a Planner for the City of El Cerrito.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

IV. ACTION RECAP – January 26, 2012

A motion was made to approve the Action Recap.

Moved: Flores
Seconded: Cardoza
Vote: Ayes: Scheuerman, Cardoza, Donaldson, Kuemmerle, Steinberg, Flores
Abstained: Moss

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Bryant reported on actions of the City Council at their February 7 and 21 meetings. He noted that the Council would be holding a "Visioning Retreat" on February 28 as the first step in development of the upcoming operating budget and an updated Capital Improvement Program. There was a community meeting on the Center of Community Life last night (February 22) at the Ralph Hawley school site and that the next workshop would be on Saturday, March 3 at the Secondary School. He reported that the boards for the PG&E "Architecture at Zero" exhibit that have been in the link since mid-January would be coming down the next day (February 24).

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Art.com Sign Amendment (SIGN11-013)** – An amendment to a Major Sign Permit to allow two new signs facing north and south near the top of the high-rise building at 2100 Powell Street, previously approved by the Planning Commission on August 25, 2011. The proposed amendment includes slightly larger signs with a new font and layout. CEQA Status: This project is exempt from environmental review under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15311(a) which applies to accessory structures including on-premise signs. General Plan Designation: Mixed Use with Non-residential (MUN); Zoning Designation: Planned Unit Development - Office (PUD). (Applicant: Young Electric Sign Company/Tom Anderson.) (Owner: Hines REIT Watergate) (APN: 49-1495-9)

Assistant Planner, Arly Cassidy, presented the staff report with staff's recommendation for approval.

The applicant answered Commissioners' questions.

The public hearing was opened. There was no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made to approve the Art.com Sign Amendment (SIGN11-013).

Moved: Cardoza
Seconded: Scheuerman

Chair Donaldson made a substitute motion for a 20% smaller sign. Commissioner Steinberg seconded the substitute motion.

Planning Director Bryant suggested reducing the dimensions by 10% so that the overall sign area would be reduced about 19%.

Terry Hill, Vice President of Human Resources from Art.com said the sign does not conflict with other signs in the area.

Chair Donaldson said she wanted to modify the substitute motion with the dimensions that Director Bryant suggested. Commissioner Steinberg agreed to the change.

Moved: Donaldson
Seconded: Steinberg
Vote: Ayes: Kuemmerle, Steinberg, Moss, Donaldson, Cardoza, Scheuerman
Noes: Flores

- B. Sustainable Transportation Plan** – Consideration of a Sustainable Transportation Plan to implement transportation policies of the General Plan. The Sustainable Transportation Plan includes strategies to improve transit services, pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, transportation demand management, parking management, and wayfinding. CEQA Status: Environmental Impact Report for General Plan certified by the City Council on October 13, 2009. (Continued from September 22, 2011 meeting.)

Associate Planner, Diana Keena, made the staff presentation.

Nathan Landau, with AC transit, commented on the proposal to reroute the F bus from 40th Street to Powell Street.

The public hearing was opened. There was no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

The Commission agreed to delete the strategy of restoring AC Transit Route 57; that if an Emery Go-Round San Pablo/Powell route is added, the Watergate loop on the Shellmound route should be retained; and to add a strategy requested by a member of the Commission on Aging to expand and maintain Paratransit for senior and disabled residents and match drivers with riders needing assistance.

After considerable discussion of the Planning Commission committee strategies, the Commission concurred they would send the Plan to the Council with a recommendation for adoption.

Moved: Scheuerman
Seconded: Moss
Vote: Ayes: Kuemmerle, Steinberg, Moss, Donaldson, Flores, Cardoza, Scheuerman

There was a break from 8:26 to 8:30.

VII. STUDY SESSION

- A. **Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan** – Study session on the draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan to implement the pedestrian and bicycle policies of the General Plan. The draft plan includes pedestrian and bicycle programs, citywide improvements, recommendations for bicycle boulevards, and site-specific pedestrian and bicycle projects. Its adoption will require amendments to the General Plan pedestrian and bicycle policies and maps. CEQA Status: Environmental Impact Report for General Plan certified by the City Council on October 13, 2009.

Deborah Diamond, General Plan Project Manager, made the staff presentation.

Commissioners made the following comments:

- The bicycle boulevard designation on 45th Street between San Pablo Avenue and Adeline Street should be moved to 47th Street and should connect with the future northward extension of the Joseph Emery Park path on the west side of San Pablo Avenue.
- Efforts should be made to develop San Pablo Avenue as a green corridor even if the City is unsuccessful in acquiring jurisdiction from Caltrans (Policy P1.9).
- The West Oakland BART Station should be included in the list of transit connections in Policy P4.2.
- Add a policy to include more bicycle parking facilities at Bay Street.

Brett Hondorp with Alta Planning & Design made the second part of the presentation.

There was one speaker at the study session: Laura McCamy, Chair of the BPAC, spoke in favor of moving the bicycle boulevard designation from 45th Street west of San Pablo Avenue, to 47th Street.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

- A. **General Plan Annual Progress Report** - Review of the annual progress report on implementation of the General Plan, including the Housing Element, in Calendar Year 2011, for submittal to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Deborah Diamond, General Plan Project Manager, and Catherine Firpo, Community Economic Development Coordinator, made the staff presentation.

There was a brief discussion about how the City is meeting its Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

The Commission thanked the presenters and a motion was made to approve the report.

Moved: Donaldson
Seconded: Flores
Vote: Ayes: Kuemmerle, Steinberg, Moss, Donaldson, Flores, Cardoza, Scheuerman

IX. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chair Donaldson and fellow Commissioners welcomed Sean Moss to the Commission.

Commissioner Moss said he was pleased to be here and takes pride in his residence and the City.

Commissioner Scheuerman said he attended last Saturday's APA Planning Commission 101 class and it was very valuable.

Chair Donaldson said she has a "Green Source" trade magazine that features Clif Bar as an example of sustainable development.

X. ADJOURNMENT- 9:37 p.m.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1333 PARK AVENUE, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608.