

November 21, 2008

Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street Suite 400, November 19, 2008
Neighborhood Organization Stakeholder Sessions, 2009 Housing Element Update
<http://housingelement2009.sfplanning.org/>

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- One handout was distributed printed both sides
 - Describes the Housing Element
 - 2009 Housing Element Update Timeline
 - Housing Element Objectives
 - Housing Needs Assessment – RHNA Targets and Production, 2007-2014
- There were around 14 people. One person from Housing Action Coalition and the rest said they were from neighborhoods.
 - Laguna / Geary
 - Inner Richmond
 - Miraloma Park
 - West Portal
 - Chinese Newcomer
 - Lakeshore Acres
 - Pacific Heights
 - Presidio Heights
 - Bernal Heights
 - Park Merced Renters Association
 - Western Addition
- One individual identified himself as being a retired planner from the state who had written some of the legislation that requires the Housing Element. He offered himself as a resource. I think his name was Bernard Choden.

Below is a summary of the issues raised by the people in attendance. Although Abigail Keifer recorded notes of comments on an easel, I didn't verify that those notes were accurate and complete and reflected the statements made. The meeting started shortly after 6 pm and ended precisely at 7:30 pm. Sarah ended the meeting promptly, and offered to stay and talk to people.

1. Infrastructure

- a. **Parking** - Concern was expressed that new construction needs to contain 1 for 1 off-street parking so that people will not have to hunt for parking. 1 to 1 parking may not be adequate, though, because more people are living in smaller units because of the cost of housing, so there will be more than one car at each unit. One individual seemed to advocate for less parking.
 - b. **Transportation** - Muni needs to be improved in on-time performance, safety, and coverage of parts of the city that are underserved or not served at all.
 - c. **Schools** – The Planning Department needs to communicate with SFUSD to ensure adequate school facilities are in place for families, etc..
 - d. **Capacity of Infrastructure** – Planning Department needs to consider the capacity of resources available, such as water, sewage, transportation, and they need to involve those parts of the City government responsible for those resources early in the planning process.
2. **Transit Corridors** - Concern was expressed about the density and building heights planned for so-called transit corridors. And that the transit corridor notion is being used to ramrod higher buildings, more density and less parking over the concern of neighborhood residents.
 3. **Density** - There is a general concern that population density should not be increased. The consensus was that higher density would be detrimental.
 4. **Trust** – The Planning Department has lost the trust of citizens. The Planning Department needs to listen to the public and develop plans and projects that reflect citizen input, to restore trust in what they do.
 5. **Uniqueness of Neighborhoods** - The uniqueness and variety in San Francisco neighborhoods is a major attraction to people living here and to people potentially moving to the city. That uniqueness needs to be nurtured and allowed to grow in order to keep San Francisco attractive and vibrant. Planning should not try to enforce a sameness in all neighborhoods. There needs to be a place for families as well as a place for the more transient and mobile population.
 6. **Secondary Units** - Secondary units increase the density of neighborhoods causing lack of parking and degradation of resources, and they do not bring additional income and value to the city.
 7. **Building Code Enforcement** - Building codes need to be enforced in order to maintain general safety.
 8. **Disaster Assistance from City** - The city has stated that they cannot provide disaster assistance for major catastrophes for at least 72 hours. Citizens need to be prepared to support themselves till the city can provide help. Adding to the population without adequate emergency services is reckless.
 9. **Rental Units** – Planning needs to consider rental units like Park Merced with open space, recreation, availability of transportation, etc.
 10. **Historic Building Preservation** – There are many structures in San Francisco that are historic in nature and need to be preserved.

11. **Consider Housing Close to San Francisco** – A lot of housing is being built in South San Francisco and Daly City that is close to transportation and within a reasonable length of time on BART to downtown. This housing should be considered when planning for increased population.
12. **What Impact does the current financial situation have on the Planning Department?** – The planners had no answer for that question.
13. **The population of San Francisco has remained at roughly the same for 50 years.** Why should we have to plan for increased growth when the population doesn't change?