

May 2023 Member Newsletter from:
Beresford/Hillsdale
Neighborhood Association
Box 6764 San Mateo CA 94403

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Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

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May 2023

BHNA May 16th Member Meeting - In Person!

Last month, we had quite a few folks in our meeting room due to the hot topic of 25th Avenue proposed building heights. This coming meeting, we'll meet in classrooms adjacent to the conference room for a bit more elbow room.

We are pleased to have for the first time Kris Jensen, Project Manager of the Phoenix Garden. What is the Phoenix Garden? It's as cool as it sounds and offers volunteer opportunities to be part of creating a beautiful space in our region. Learn more about how you can make meaningful & lasting changes to a place that is a 'backyard' to us all! Additionally, we will provide you with any important updates we have to share! There is a lot going on! Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

NOTE: There will be no June/July newsletters, and no member meeting in June. But we are bringing back **Donuts in the Park** in July with our 'BHNA Café.' So, write it down and don't forget: **Saturday, July 15th from 10:00 to 11 a.m. at Beresford Park** you can find our table on the south side of the park, between the tennis courts and 28th Avenue. Come enjoy some coffee, donuts and neighbors! And feel free to bring a friend who wants to learn more about our neighborhood association.

Team up to Clean Up! May 20th Event (Recurring) - Team Up to Clean Up brings San Mateo residents and neighborhoods together in a joint effort to eliminate litter in our streets, storm drains, parks, and waterways. This City program helps groups large and small keep their neighborhood free of unsightly litter, and the natural environment safer for all. May 20th is their monthly upcoming monthly clean-up day! Learn more and sign up via: <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/3009/Team-Up-to-Clean-Up> or email the Team Up to Clean Up crew at: spauli@cityofsanmateo.org. (We may even get them to come speak this month, too!)

**BHNA Member Meeting
May 16th at 7 p.m.
Beresford Rec Center
In-Person!**

* * *

**July 15th
Date for Donuts in the Park
10 to 11 a.m.**

Have you paid your 2023 BHNA Dues? It's just \$12 to ensure we can do what we do to keep you informed! You may have signed up for an automatic renewal on our website, but otherwise please renew (or join) by sending this form and your check, payable to "The BHNA" to: BHNA, P.O. Box 6764, San Mateo CA 94403, or pay online TODAY at: www.beresfordhillsdale.org.

BHNA 2023 MEMBERSHIP

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send newsletter by () US Mail Only or () Email Only

Speaking of 25th Avenue... There was a large turnout of neighbors at our April meeting, eager to hear the latest news regarding 25th Avenue and the adjacent church parking lot. Speaker Lisa Maley advised residents about the existing heights and densities for development at those locations allowed under San Mateo's current General Plan with Measure Y height limits in place. She followed that with news of the increased potential heights and densities allowed by the proposed draft General Plan currently being prepared by the City. Maley stated that all City documents, including the General Plan, do not account for the State Density Bonus law that permits additional building densities, less parking and up to two stories of additional building heights. Both locations discussed fall inside Transit Oriented Development (TOD) areas, which allows for even *less* required parking.

Neighbor Danny Baciocco shared his personal story of moving to the suburbs of San Mateo. He spoke on how the proposed land use changes would significantly impact the character and livability of our neighborhood and urged everyone to stay involved and united to steer inevitable development in a direction we can all live with. Our District 5 City Council representative, Adam Lorraine, was in the audience and responded directly to some resident concerns. For updates and meetings, BHNA neighbors are encouraged to join the 25th Ave email list by sending an email to: 25thAveSpeaks@gmail.com.

Mayor Lee Recall Deadline Approaching – Pop-Up petition signing locations have been seen all around San Mateo. Volunteers share that a mid-May deadline is fast approaching to turn in the needed 9,000 resident signatures to get the recall option on the upcoming ballot measure for voters.

Did You Miss the April Meeting? Handout Updates Provided:

Council Majority Directs Staff to ID More Housing Locations - The HCD is the state organization that doles out housing numbers each city must plan for. San Mateo identified places over & above the 7,015 housing unit numbers HCD mandated for us. However, Planning Commissioner Adam Nugent felt this was insufficient and contacted the HCD directly & San Mateo was placed under a microscope. From the SF Chronicle recently: "After more than 2 months since the deadline for Bay Area cities to submit housing plans to the state, things are not looking promising: 85% have not come to an agreement with California officials over how to realistically build more homes in the next 80 years. This month, housing officials have sent back housing plans for: San Mateo, Walnut Creek, Moraga, Santa Clara, San Bruno, Lafayette, Colma, South San Francisco, Los Altos, Danville, Clayton, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Belmont, Benicia, Atherton, Antioch, Brisbane, Saint Helena, Menlo Park, Pleasanton, Hayward and Novato. The state requires the cities to be "in substantial compliance" with the state housing element."

At the April 17th Council meeting, staff confidently fielded questions by Councilmembers Lorraine, Hedges and Mayor Lee, providing that they'd accomplished the housing goal & showed the HCD all the details around what was submitted. Lorraine, Hedges & Lee still felt that more housing units should be identified & directed staff to do so.

DA Findings – Resident Reactions April 17th - In early April, the District Attorney published investigation findings that Mayor Lee's voter extortion allegations had no merit. Based on her allegations, she removed a council candidate from the running (Cliff Robbins) and her preferred candidate was seated. From the Mercury News: "During a tense council meeting on Dec. 13, then-councilmember Lee said she received 3 different proposals telling her that if she chose a certain candidate for the 5th council seat she could then become mayor...Lee dramatically pulled a piece of paper of a manila envelope with the name Cliff Robbins, the candidate she was allegedly asked to support in exchange for becoming mayor. The stunt drew immediate outrage from some of her colleagues and members of the audience."

At the April 17th City Council meeting, many residents demanded Lee resign or council vote to censure or otherwise discipline her. Councilmember Nash then asked fellow councilmembers to consider placing on the next agenda a discussion of the DA's report & a consideration of what, if any, actions should be taken, & more generally, discuss a code of conduct for Council, boards & commissions. Councilmember Lorraine, our district representative, was the lone dissenter, "I am NOT interested." But two others agreed. **STAY TUNED: Attend or watch Monday, May 1st Council Meeting at 7 pm at City Hall.** (Update: April 25th Lorraine changed his mind, writing the Journal, "I will prepare to join the conversation with an open mind. Thank you to all members of the public who shared their thoughts on this matter.")

RECAP – Hillsdale Mall/BHNA Member Mtg. - We sent emails with this recap, but if you aren't on our blast list:

What happened at the Hillsdale Mall meeting? 3 options were presented to residents, this time with taller buildings represented which had not been represented in earlier March public meetings. They confirmed open space would be done as required and in compliance with the size of the project but are undecided on the final design. Option #3 is their preferred option, having taller buildings than Measure Y allows, but showing the nicest, shortest buildings fronting Edison, which obviously pleased residents who live on that street. They made it clear that residents would have to vote down Measure Y to obtain Option #3. The entire project will be a mix of commercial, retail & housing. While most housing units planned will be for rent, they might consider some for purchase. Currently, they are talking about 900 to 1200 units of housing, 500k sf of retail, & 2 million sf of commercial. They are looking to create a 'modern transit village' to support residents, including a good grocery store. They plan to have underground parking with at least one parking space per unit. One of the questions of the night was to ask that the current renderings of the 3 options be placed front & center on their website (including showing the possible extra two stories certain buildings might receive due to bonuses). The staffers said they would try. Currently, you may only see them here without the taller renderings: <https://vimeo.com/806539434/5bbfc4a1a9>.

DON'T FORGET: National Neighborhood Night Out is August 1st! The SMPD organizes with your block captains to visit your event (w/ the Fire Dept.). Organize soon!