



## Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

[www.beresfordhillsdale.org](http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org)

February 2015

### February General Meeting

**Mimi Steel**  
**Bay Area Citizens Alliance for  
Property Rights**

**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**7:30 PM**

Beresford Recreation Center  
(28<sup>th</sup> & Alameda)

*note: member votes may be taken*

Riddle me this: what single thing would impact every person in the Bay Area? A tsunami? Snow? Ebola? How about Plan Bay Area? What's that, you ask? Plan Bay Area is a plan to meet state requirements that each of California's eighteen metropolitan areas develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy to accommodate future population growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Plan Bay Area means that our region will get 188,000 high-density housing units, mostly built along public transportation lines. Many are concerned about the Plan – how will we supply water for the increased population? What will traffic be like? Can our sewer system accommodate the increase? Will our schools be able to accommodate incoming students?

You will learn about all this and more at this month's General Meeting, where Mimi Steel, an activist opposing Plan Bay Area, will speak to members about the plan and how it has already impacted our region.

*BHNA general membership meetings are every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm-9pm*

### Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

**March 2015** - Darcy Forsell, City of San Mateo Planner

**April 2015** - Felidae Conservation Fund, Living with Mountain Lions

### January 2015 General Meeting Recap

Maureen Freschet, San Mateo's new mayor, was the speaker at our January meeting. She was accompanied by City Manager, Larry Patterson. The Mayor presented an overview of the city's financial condition, noting that we have a city budget of \$214 million, with most of it coming from sales tax and property taxes. The biggest portion, about 55 percent, goes to public safety.

Ms. Freschet discussed a number of important City projects, some of which are currently underfunded. The largest project is getting North Shoreview and North Central out of the flood zone. This will cost about \$22 million. At a cost of about \$5 to \$7 million, the Street Paving Program will address about 18 miles of failed streets. High profile projects that await funding include the grade separation project for 25th Avenue, the Hillsdale pedestrian overpass over Hwy. 101, and the Poplar Avenue Safety Improvement project. The majority of the City's development is occurring in areas zoned for higher density along the railway corridor. Station Park Green is one of the transit-oriented developments in the planning stage. There is a project proposal to finally fill the vacant lots at 3rd Avenue and El Camino with a mixed use of retail, office and apartments.

A lively discussion followed the Mayor's presentation, with residents raising concerns about traffic, affordable housing, and how the City will accommodate the expected growth.

### Hillsdale Shopping Center North Block Update

The Hillsdale Shopping Center North Block pre-application process began again with a neighborhood meeting in January. At this meeting, Bohannon Development presented its new plans to a concerned crowd. Changes to the plans from two years ago were influenced by neighborhood input and current economic trends in shopping centers. The planned luxury cinema has been relocated to El Camino in response to concerns about traffic, noise and lights. Although no leases have been signed as of yet, the plan is that instead of Target there will be an open plaza, bowling alley, fitness center, and small higher-end retail and restaurants. Citizens are still concerned about parking and traffic flow.

## Staying Safe in Mountain Lion Country

At the BHNA April General meeting, we will have a presentation on "Living With Mountain Lions," but for now, here are some tips in order to avoid encounters with these big cats. First, do not feed deer – it is illegal and will attract mountain lions. Furthermore, you should deer-proof your landscaping by choosing plants that deer will avoid. It is also a good idea to trim brush to reduce hiding places for mountain lions, install motion-sensitive lighting around your house, and bring pet food inside in order to avoid attracting mountain lion prey. Finally, do not leave small children or pets outside unattended, especially during dawn, dusk and at night, when mountain lions are most active.

## The Board Gets Educated on Housing Plans

On January 8, Josh Hugg of the Housing Leadership Council, spoke to the BHNA Board to discuss plans for housing in our city. Josh indicated that, since we are between San Francisco and Silicon Valley, more jobs are coming our way, creating a great need for additional housing. Our City is planning to address increased housing demands, as set forth by the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The state projects growth for our area (and beyond) and those projections result in the mandated number of housing units to build. More information can be found at [http://planbayarea.org/pdf/final\\_supplemental\\_reports/FINAL\\_PBA\\_Forecast\\_of\\_Jobs\\_Population\\_and\\_Housing.pdf](http://planbayarea.org/pdf/final_supplemental_reports/FINAL_PBA_Forecast_of_Jobs_Population_and_Housing.pdf)

Through RHNA, 17,000 homes are currently slated for San Mateo County. As the second largest city in the County, San Mateo was allocated 3,100 new units. <http://www.abag.ca.gov/planning/housingneeds/pdfs/Final%20RHNA%20%282014-2022%29.pdf>

Some of the new construction will provide low-income housing. Josh advised that San Mateo is a leader in offering affordable housing. Much of the planned housing will be transit-oriented, in order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (by reducing vehicle miles traveled).

Board members asked Josh about improving public transportation. He conceded that our east/west transit lines are poor. However, the railway corridor (north/south avenues) and downtown San Mateo are the current priority development areas, with 80% of funds going to work there.

## Did you know?

San Mateo may be part of high-tech Silicon Valley, but its biggest employers are not. That honor goes to financial services, health services, education and the City government. In 2014, the top 10 employers – providing 7,778 (15%) of jobs in San Mateo – were, in order: County of San Mateo Medical Center, San Mateo-Foster City Unified, Franklin Templeton Investor, San Mateo Community College District, City of San Mateo, San Mateo Union High School District, Fisher Investments, San Mateo County Behavioral Health, Mills Peninsula Health Services, and Macy's Department Stores.

## Upcoming Events

**February 10<sup>th</sup>:** Planning Commission meeting on the proposed Hillsdale North Mall Project will be held from 7:30 PM – 9 PM at the City Hall Council Chambers.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>:** Special Meeting – Permanent Athletic Outdoor Lighting At Hillsdale High School and other District High Schools. Will be held from 5:30 PM – 7 PM. For more details, call San Mateo Union High School at (650) 558-2299.

## Support Our Neighborhood Merchants!

If your dog needs a haircut and shampoo check out Super Pups at 2230 S. El Camino Real. Susie and Joel will make sure your pet is treated gently and with care, and charge you a reasonable price. Call them at 650 349 7877. Mark, Hacienda Street.

**If you have a favorite shop or business in our neighborhood, let us know. Call or email the newsletter editor (see below).**

### 2015 BHNA Officers & Directors

President	Lisa Taner	(650) 504-8181	president@beresfordhillsdale.org
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***If you picked up this newsletter at one of our neighborhood locations, or a member shared this with you, we invite you to contact an officer to join our association.***