



Beresford/Hillsdale Neighborhood Association

<http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org/>

March 2015

Development in San Mateo City Planner Darcy Forsell and

Councilman David Lim

Tuesday, March 17th, 2015
7:30 PM

Beresford Recreation Center
(28th & Alameda)

note: member votes may be taken

March General Meeting

What is happening at Bay Meadows and the Hillsdale Shopping Center, and how do these and other projects fit into the City's long term development plans? How much longer is construction at Bay Meadows going to take? What are the plans for demolition of the Sears building and food court at the Hillsdale Shopping Center block north of 31st Avenue? On March 17th, our guest speaker, City of San Mateo Principal Planner Darcy Forsell, will answer those questions, and more. Darcy's Spring presentation at BHNA is becoming a tradition that provides members with the latest insights on City projects.

This year, Darcy will be joined by David Lim, who will discuss the connection between specific San Mateo projects and Plan Bay Area and the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) for the eight-year period through 2022.

At the February General Meeting, BHNA presented the views of a group that opposes Plan Bay Area. Our March meeting will provide an opportunity for you to hear from some of the officials that represent San Mateo, who support the plan and seek to implement it in ways that will best serve the residents of our City.

BHNA general membership meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm-9pm

Upcoming BHNA General Meetings

April 21, 2015 - Zara McDonald of the Bay Area Puma Project, on Mountain Lions in our neighborhood.

May 19, 2015 – Developments in Regional Transportation

February General Meeting Recap

Mimi Steel from the Citizens Alliance for Property Rights, and her teammate Charles Cagnon, made a presentation at BHNA's February general meeting. They spoke in opposition to Plan Bay Area. Mimi stated that the increase in growth in the Bay Area is due to Plan Bay Area, which she said aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by accommodating future population growth with

expanded housing and transportation choices. She presented her group's view that the 25-year plan is not flexible, and that it doesn't allow city councils much power other than deciding where growth should occur.

Mimi noted that the expected growth impacts infrastructure, and that residents will be the ones paying for upgrades. She emphasized that Plan Bay Area will change our suburban area to more urban environments and that it will impact traffic and other transportation options for Bay Area residents. She stated that citizens must choose what they want their city to look like since growth is inevitable. Do we opt for high-rise dense homes, or do we look into allowing some building on our open spaces?

The audience proved to be very passionate about this topic, and Mimi and Charles started a very important conversation about the future of our city.

What Would You Like To See On The Street Where You Shop?

The two blocks on 25th Avenue between El Camino and Hacienda have long been a favorite shopping and dining area for BHNA members. Lately, there seems to be a trend of storefront vacancies being filled by nail salons or similar businesses. Some neighborhood residents would like to see more establishments that cater to families, such as a pizza restaurant.

On February 24, a group of neighbors and business owners met at The Spot on 25th to discuss their views on what they would like to see happen on 25th Avenue and how to make their ideas heard. The discussion had started on Nextdoor.com, and the group decided to continue in that space. If you are a member of Nextdoor, you can follow developments there. If you are not, you may want to sign up. See

https://help.nextdoor.com/customer/portal/articles/805001-joining-nextdoor?b_id=98. We also will provide updates in this newsletter as we learn more.

SMUHSD Study Session: Stadium Lights

On April 6th, starting at 5:30 PM in the Aragon High School Main Theater, the San Mateo Union High School Board of Trustees will hold a study session on stadium lights. Learn about the many variables to consider when discussing stadium lights, hear views from other invested school and community members, and provide your own opinion. For more information, call (6550) 558-2299 or visit www.smuhsd.org/stadiumlights.

Off-Leash Programs

Warmer weather is right around the bend, which means off-leash programs are coming back for neighborhood dog owners. San Mateo has a number of off-leash programs that allow your furry friends to enjoy a romp sans leash! Off-leash hours at Chanteloup Field in Beresford Park are from 6 – 8 AM, and the West Hillsdale Park has off-leash hours from 6 – 8 AM and 8 – 9 PM.

These programs are available because owners remember to pick up after their dogs and maintain control over their animals. Three dogs per person is the maximum, and dogs must be up to date on their vaccinations, licensed, and healthy. Check out <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/6353> for more information about the City's off-leash program.

Water Conservation

The Bay Area is in its fourth year of drought! Did you know that irrigation is the largest discretionary use of water per single family household? Did you know that, if March does not bring rain, Bay Area residents might have to start recycling drinking water next year if the drought continues? Residents have been asked to cut back 10% on their water usage; and if the drought continues and we aren't conserving what little water is available to us, mandatory conservation will be put into effect.

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency has information regarding our current situation and what we can do to conserve water. There are rebates for lawn conversions, smart irrigation controllers, and high-efficiency toilets for your home. BAWSCA also has a rain barrel rebate program and offers free items to help you conserve. Check out more at their website, www.bawsca.org.

City Council Priorities

If you missed the special meeting on February 25th at the Main Library, it is not too late to get an update on the City budget and an overview of the projects that our City Council members consider important. The meeting agenda and key documents are posted at <https://app.box.com/s/z2yghztsdifikhbh1boomvz9y37nlwewi>. We understand it was a lively and informative meeting at which many different views were heard.

Upcoming Events

March 14th: The San Mateo Garden Center, located at 605 Parkside Way, across from Meadow Heights School, will hold a free workshop on orchids from 1 – 2:30 PM.

April 4th: The 38th Anniversary of Eggstravaganza will take place from 9:00am - 1:00pm in Central Park. You can purchase a time slot for your child at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eggstravaganza-tickets-15332089693>.

BHNA financial information is available to any current member on request. Please contact the BHNA Treasurer, Ellen Wang, at treasurer@beresfordhillsdale.org.

Favorite Merchant

Visiting Cray Cleaners, located at 33 37th Avenue, is a true neighborhood experience! The owner is always on the premises and ready to assist her customers. She is very helpful, even when you need to get your clothes back in a hurry, and always takes the time to get to know you and your needs. Cray Cleaners is a family-owned place you'll want to go back to. Lisa, Arbor Lane.

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

2015 BHNA Officers & Directors

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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 or visit our website at http://www.beresfordhillsdale.org/?page_id=15 to join our association.