

Albany Democratic Club  
Thursday, August 17,, 2017 7:00 PM  
University Village Four Corners Room

## Meeting Minutes

### 7:00 Call to Order

Introductions And Announcements

Moment of silence for lives lost in Charlottesville and Barcelona.

### Guest Speaker: Albany Mayor Peggy McQuaid

City's message of inclusion and her own statement on Charlottesville which is now on city web page.

Overview of city staff structure and commissions.

Communicating with city - new website.

NextDoor is a great resource but not the way to officially communicate with the city

Sign up for e-notifications on the city's website

KALB YouTube channel a good resource for watching live or prior city meetings of all types

Council Strategic Plan 2017-2019

-\$28 million budget, balanced

-Capital Improvement Plan

Programs and Policies recently enacted:

-Sanctuary city

-The Albany Hill Cross on public land is at odds with inclusive values the city encourages. Let the city and the Lions know your stance.

-Cost of housing. Rent review program based on mediation, not rent control, being considered.

-September 8 begins Albany Community Resources Center at Albany United Methodist Church where residents can learn about public services. Self-service stations for info and iPads for online research. Needs volunteer staff. Pilot program not just for the homeless.

-Contract with Berkeley Food & Housing to serve homeless

-Shower program for homeless, at Albany Pool run by multiple partners

-2010 Albany Climate Action Plan

-Member of Climate Mayors with NYC, Chicago, etc.

- Sugar sweetened beverage tax measure passed. Upcoming Fall 2017 public meetings to get input on how to spend the funds.
  - Sidewalk repair measure passed. June 2016 city passed sidewalk repair policy. State law says homeowner is still responsible for safety of sidewalk adjacent to their property. City pays for some priority repairs. Will start probably in 2018.
  - Prop 64 adult use of marijuana passed. June 2017 expanded prohibition of medical and recreational marijuana dispensaries.
  - School crossing guards issue addressed recently - University Village reduced its contribution. City increased its contribution in the short term with the plan to negotiate a different solution with all parties.
  - Albany waterfront. 2016 Albany Neck & Bulb Transition Study. Transitioning to East Bay Park District.
  - Arts in city including new sculpture at Belmont Village, coming Ohlone Greenway art
  - Local Week Sept 23-30, challenge to do as many things locally as residents can
  - Music in the Park starts Sept 6
- Q&A

**Speaker: Amy Neil.**

Research on historic racism in Albany, Albany Hill Cross.

Used to think KKK was a Southern thing. But discovered existence of over 13 Klan groups in the Bay Area in the 1920s. Lots of initiations with cross burnings in the hills adding hundreds of members at a time. Ads in newspapers soliciting members. TV News segment from about 20 years ago describes Klan cross burnings in East Bay hills including Albany Hill. This appears to have been based on oral history and efforts are underway looking for a primary source such as a newspaper report to verify this assertion. Noted that the events of Charlottesville have shown us again the power of monuments and symbols and it can spur people to reflect on what it means to have a Christian monument on public land on Albany Hill.

Redlining in Albany. In 1930s Federal Housing Authority created discriminatory lending policies all over, including Albany, by race in each neighborhood. 1937 zero Black residents in Albany. One Asian family. Reference is made to expired racial restrictions in Albany and research is being conducted to determine whether these were private deed restrictions or something else. Asian exclusion leagues and Immigration Act of 1924 prohibiting Asian immigration. Albany's John Birch Society.

University Village was originally Codornices Village, temporary housing for WW II. 2,000 units. 44% in Albany, rest in Berkeley. First director John Melville said no racial restrictions or segregation. Contrast to Richmond wartime housing which was racially segregated. But 2 years after start of Codornices Village it had become racially segregated. Forward-thinking integration effort ensued with training on race relations and change to policies in leasing office which re-integrated the village.

### **Nick Pilch, City Update**

-Sign up for e-notify including summary of city council meetings sent out the day after of each meeting.

-Albany gets funding from Measure 1 for affordable housing. Will give it to Berkeley.

### **Speaker: Jennifer Longley, Alameda County Democratic Party Executive Director**

1st paid staff in 2 years. Here to build capacity. Looking to reconstitute committee structure, fundraise, political action, support sanctuary cities, renter protections, partnering with labor to do calls in swing districts related to ACA, support CD-10 (red district nearby).

Oct 7 47th annual unity dinner fundraiser for county Democratic Party.

“Bounty” program for registering Dem voters

### **Jennifer Radics-Johnson**

Endorsement Policy will be available at next meeting to vote on based on prior feedback.

Need to develop a club party platform to share with candidates to see if they agree with our values.

### **Ongoing business**

-Solano Stroll. March with banner in parade is set. Wear pink hat. At booth, membership drive for club, voter drive adults and 16+ pre-registration. Club funds for banner for march and table, free-standing flag, etc.

-Club Budget. Proposal soon for expenditures.

-Fundraiser. Eleanor and Yali working on December ideas, possibly something centered around a screening of a local filmmaker’s work on social justice in a local theater as a community event.

Change in future agendas to have a “Current Events/Action” segment for discussion of what’s been going on the prior few weeks and days at all levels of government plus announcements of upcoming events eg. actions in response to what has been happening.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

\$1176.12 current balance.

Small reimbursement for Amy and authorization of \$400 for Solano Stroll approved.

### **Closing Comments**

Peaceful rally planned in Berkeley in response to upcoming white supremacist rally. Sierra Club annual dinner and fundraiser Oct 7 earlier in the evening than the County Democratic Dinner.

Party leadership encourages people not to go to response rallies in Berkeley to starve them of attention.

**Next Meeting Sept 21st.**