

Kelly, Sherry

From: Charles Siegel [siegel@preservenet.com]
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2002 6:37 PM
To: Armstrong, Polly; Worthington, Kriss; Olds, Betty; Hawley, Miriam; Spring, Dona; Breland, Margaret; Maio, Linda; Shirek, Maudelle; Bright, Tamlyn; Kelly, Sherry
Subject: Zoning Appeal for 91 Bolivar Drive

To: Mayor Dean and City Councilmembers:
Re: Appeal of use permit for 91 Bolivar Drive.

Mayor Dean and Councilmembers:

The Zoning Board was wrong to approve a project that allows the continued use of Bolivar Drive for access to 91 Bolivar Drive. The project should provide adequate access from Addison St., rather than using a road that is in the park for access.

As a bicycle commuter who rides on Bolivar Drive daily, I know from experience that drivers using that street to get to the park are usually cautious and courteous, while commuters using it to access 91 Bolivar Drive are often drive aggressively and exceed the speed limit. Using this park road for access to 91 Bolivar Drive is unsafe for park users -- both for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Bolivar Drive is not a city street. It is a street in a park, and it should not be used for access to a private business.

I urge you to send this issue back to the Zoning Board with instructions that the project should be redesigned to provide access from Addison St. and that Bolivar Drive should not be used for access.

Charles Siegel

Kelly, Sherry

From: Nancy Grimley Carleton [ngc2@mindspring.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2002 5:53 AM
To: Kelly, Sherry
Cc: Bright, Tamlyn; Shirek, Maudelle; Maio, Linda; Breland, Margaret; Spring, Dona; Hawley, Miriam; olds @ci.berkeley.ca.us; Worthington, Kriss; Armstrong, Polly
Subject: 11/12 Council Agenda Item #25: Appeal of 91 Bolivar (and Item #27)

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing to support the appeal on 91 Bolivar. I encourage you to stand up for the integrity of our parkland, and request that Council remand the item to ZAB with the instruction that closure of the gate on Bolivar Drive be a condition of the use permit for the project. Bolivar Drive is not a city street. It is part of Aquatic Park. With the opening of the new pedestrian bridge, the number of pedestrians and cyclists has increased. Your decisive action is necessary for their safety, and for the ongoing integrity of Aquatic Park.

(Also regarding Aquatic Park is Item #27; I hope you will give serious weight to Mark Liolios's letter on the subject. No one is more familiar with the needs of the park than he. Aquatic Park is not only an important recreational resource for the city; it also provides much-needed habitat, and adequate vegetation and an appropriate maintenance plan are essential to meeting this need.)

Sincerely,

Nancy Carleton
Former Vice Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
Former Chair, Zoning Adjustments Board

Nancy Carleton
3044-B Halcyon Court
Berkeley, CA 94705
510 644-0172

Mayor Shirley Dean and Members of the City Council
2180 Milvia Street, Fifth Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Appeal of Use Permit for 91 Bolivar Drive

November 10, 2002

Dear Mayor Dean and Members of the City Council,

I am writing in support of the appeal of the Use Permit for 91 Bolivar Drive adjacent to Aquatic Park.

There is only one issue before you in deciding the conditions for the proposed project. That issue is whether or not an owner of property in Berkeley may use City parkland to provide private vehicle access to their property.

I know of no commercial or residential project in Berkeley allowed to provide vehicle access to their property via parkland. The project has no need for this access, as the new entrance on Addison easily accommodates all vehicles. The addition of closure of the existing gate as a condition of approval would greatly improve the safety of the public, while having no impact on the success of the project.

Throughout the public process – in meetings before the Zoning Adjustments Board and the Design Review Committee – the inappropriateness of the Bolivar Drive entrance was clearly pointed out. The property owner had repeatedly stated his willingness and intention to close the entrance. Only when the closure was submitted as a condition of approval, did the owner change positions, thus delaying the project.

This section of Bolivar Drive now has many pedestrians and cyclists since the opening of the bridge. I urge you to act to protect their safety.

The members of the Park's and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to close the private gate that opens directly onto Aquatic Park. City staff recommended closure of the entrance, as well.

Do not set a precedent by allowing a city park to be used to provide motor vehicle access to private property. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mark Liolios

Mark Liolios
(510) 549-0818
1846 Parker St.
Berkeley, CA 94703 markl@lmi.net

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Kelly, Sherry

From: Hank Resnik [hankr@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2002 12:09 PM
To: Bright, Tamlyn; Kelly, Sherry; Olds, Betty; Spring, Dona; Worthington, Kriss; Maio, Linda; Breland, Margaret; Shirek, Maudelle; Hawley, Miriam; Armstrong, Polly
Cc: 'Mark Liolios'; Stephen Swanson
Subject: FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF NOV. 12, 2002: Aquatic Park and Bolivar Drive

Bicycle-Friendly Berkeley Coalition
P.O. Box 13357
Berkeley, CA 94712-4357

Re: Items #25 and 27 on Nov. 12, 2002 City Council Agenda

Dear Mayor Dean and Members of the City Council:

We are writing to express concern that two important aspects of citizens' and bicyclists' use of Aquatic Park are in serious jeopardy.

Our first concern pertains to the appeal of the building proposed for 91 Bolivar Drive adjacent to Aquatic Park (item #25). In our view, the property owner is requesting special private access to his property via parkland, a right given to no other commercial or residential property owner in Berkeley.

Bolivar Drive is not a city street. It is part of Aquatic Park. With the opening of the new I-80 bicycle-pedestrian bridge, the number of pedestrians and cyclists has increased. Closure of the gate on Bolivar Drive should be a condition of the use permit for the project.

Our second concern has to do with maintenance of the park (item #27). We are concerned about the following issues:

- A need for timely removal of trash;
- Basic maintenance of park facilities;
- Release of water into Aquatic Park by neighbors;
- Maintenance of the project's drip irrigation system to support plant life;
- Timely maintenance and monitoring of toxins in the water of the lagoon which may lead to fish kills, as happened recently;
- Long-term camping in and around the park;
- The need to make enhancement of the wildlife habitat at the park a priority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Campbell, President
Hank Resnik, Co-Chair, Board of Directors

11/12/2002