

CITY NEWS

City Council update

For a regular meeting and special session in Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 13, Mayor Tom Bates was absent. Consequently, Vice Mayor Linda Maio (District 1) led both sessions.

The special session was brief but involved an exciting demonstration of a new technology launched recently by Berkeley Community Media (BCM), the City's public access television station. According to BCM Executive Director Brian Scott, who began his demonstration by screening a video, the new "crowd source app and website" is called mediaphile. He described it as an easy-to-use, downloadable application (to check it out, go to mediaphile.bcmtv.org) that allows users to upload video content to a special website hosted by BCM – almost instantly. Scott suggested that the app would be most useful for covering or promoting events. He also said that it would be interesting to Berkeley citizens, because the content would be all about Berkeley, and in this way "more local than Facebook."

"Now even I can be a journalist," he told Council at the end of his demo.

After Council congratulated Scott on the accomplishment of a successful product launch, they asked questions about the new technology, how it compared to Berke-

leyside – especially its Calendar function. They were also curious about the number of users (now more than 3,000), and how the station would handle objectionable content.

"If users report it [objectionable content], we can remove it from the site," Scott assured Council. "But we haven't had to do it yet."

The regular session featured one of the shortest agendas of the year, but still provided to generate some amount of drama in the not-so-crowded Chamber.

The first meaty discussion of the evening involved an Appeal of a recent Zoning Adjustment Board (ZAB) decision to deny Acme Bar & Company, located in the 2100 block of San Pablo Avenue, a Use Permit (No. 2013-0047) allowing for alcoholic beverage service on the bar's back patio.

After testimonies given by bar owner Jennifer Seidman, a variety of neighbors for and against the Use Permit, as well as a number of other representatives of the "spirits industry," and after a lengthy discussion, Council voted 6-2 to overturn the ZAB decision and to issue a Use Permit with at least six separate conditions – most related to noise mitigation. Councilmembers Maio (District 1) and Max Anderson (District 3) dissented.

It was Councilmember Jesse Arreguin (District 4), who articulated how the patio, just 240 square feet and surrounded by walls of neighboring structures on all four sides, could be improved to mitigate the problem of too much noise on the patio. As part of his argument, he referenced a noise study prepared by Meyer Sound that Seidman had commissioned.

Some neighbors compared the noise to "a frat party." Even so, no neighbor spoke out against Acme Bar & Company. In fact, several of them stated that it was a positive addition to the neighborhood – except for the noise originating from the patio.

Just before the final vote, Seidman promised Council that the patio would be supervised, that there would be no amplified music, and never more than 20 customers.

The most dramatic sequence of the regular session related to a referral item initially described as "Constitutional Questions raised about DBA Ambassadors taking down fliers that appear to comply with Berkeley Municipal Code."

During Public Comments, Linda Mac presented to Council flyers promoting an event featuring the artwork of the late Frank Moore and described how misinformed DBA Ambassadors removed them

insisting the Mayor's Office had instructed them to. Then she read an excerpt of an essay by Moore (see related story).

There were other testimonies too, including one from DBA Executive Director John Caner, who turned to Corey Nicholl, who described himself as one of "Moore's flyerists," and earnestly apologized. Then Caner addressed the Council and apologized again.

"This is the first that I've heard of it," he said. Later he elaborated how Ambassadors had been instructed to remove "corporate clutter."

These words by Caner seemed to light a fuse among other citizens in the queue.

300, a familiar street person and not a stranger to Council Chambers, was incensed by Caner's remarks. Addressing the dais, 300 shouted obscenities as he banged on the podium. He concluded by describing the DBA Ambassador program as "Caner's campaign of terror."

After a short discussion, Council voted unanimously in favor of a revised version of the item that Councilmember Laurie Capitelli (District 5) had word-smithed in collaboration with Councilmember Kriss Worthington (District 7), the item's original author.

Speech excerpt "Cultural Subversion"

BY FRANK MOORE, DECEASED

Editor's note: The following text, an excerpt from an essay titled "Cultural Subversion" written in 1991 by the late Frank Moore, was presented by Linda Mac to Council during its regular session on October 13. To read Moore's entire essay, go to eroplay.com/cultsub.html

...when I was trying to get established in New York City (NYC) in the early 70's. I could not find out about art events until after the fact when I read about them in *The Village Voice*. So I couldn't go to them. So I couldn't meet people with whom I could have gotten something going. One reason for this was there was very little flyering. In NYC, organized crime has a monopoly on putting up posters. I did not realize how much no-flyering isolated people until I moved to Berkeley, where on every telephone pole,

see page 10



Speech excerpt "Cultural Subversion"

from page 3

there were 10, 20, 30 flyers. Anyone who has an event, a group, a cause, something to say, can go to a xerox place, run off hundreds, or even thousands of flyers, and staple them up all over town. This direct two-way form of the press plugged me immediately into the community where I could do my work.

We have to start seeing flyering, be it on telephone poles or on computer bulletin boards, as a form of personal press, and as such is protected under the Freedom of Press. Big Brother comes in many forms from the mafia to government (down to the anti-flyer laws as part of a city's "beautification" campaign) to

corporations such as A.T.&T. and Blockbuster Videos.

Just recently I saw the power of this direct personal press. For years I have not been able to be booked in the "alternative" performance galleries in the Bay Area for various reasons...so I put 500 "too controversial for the Bay Area" flyers up asking for leads to spaces in which to perform. From the very first flyer we put up came three good leads into the true alternative art scene. Moreover, the flyer directly exposed the true condition of the established "alternative" art world.

Piedmont Copy AND PRINTING
WE DO READERS!

- 25¢ color copies**
Unlimited one-sided, 8.5 x 11, 28 lbs. One per customer per visit. Not valid with other offers.
- 20% OFF audio/video cd/dvd duplication**
- 15% OFF all banners**
Our shop has the latest in sign design technology.
- 3¢ B/W copies**
Unlimited one-sided, 8.5 x 11, 20 lbs. One per customer per visit. Self-service or fastfeed overnight services only.

Two locations
BERKELEY shop 2980 College Ave. #2 (@ Ashby)
 (510) 549-2020 / pc.copy@hotmail.com
OAKLAND shop 4237 Piedmont Ave.
 (510) 655-3030

REALLY WANT TO SHOW YOU, LORD



SEE PAGE 12