



Public Works Commission

**REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Thursday, January 4, 2001, 7:30 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St.
MINUTES**

Roll Call: 7:40p.m.

Present: Commissioners Gartner, Piercy, Perry, St. John, Alward, Holland, Loftin,
Shumer

Absent: Commissioner Broderick

Staff Present: Jeff Egeberg, Lorin Jensen, Lee Hightower

Comments from the Public: None

Announcements:

A farewell lunch for Peggy Gibbons and Virginia Vafa will be held at The Vault restaurant at 12 Noon on Thursday, January 19, 2001.

Actions and Discussion: *All actions are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.*

Approval of Minutes: It was M/S/C (Holland/Shumer) that the minutes of December 7, 2000 be approved with corrections.

Action Items:

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Year 2001: It was M/S/C (Gartner/St. John –Piercy abstain) that John Piercy is elected as Chair for 2001. It was further M/S/C (Piercy/Loftin – Perry abstain) that Linda Perry is elected as Vice Chair for 2001.
2. Conducting Informational Meetings Concerning Rule 20B Undergrounding District: (It was noted that “Rule 20A” on the Agenda is corrected to “Rule 20B.”) It was M/S/C (Piercy/St. John) that the Undergrounding Subcommittee will proceed to hold informational meetings.
3. Request from Undergrounding Subcommittee for a Letter from the Commission to the Public Works Director regarding Staffing: It was M/S/C (Piercy/Holland) that the letter contained in the packet is approved and the Chair is to sign the original.
4. Commendation for National Accreditation of the Public Works Department: It was M/S/C (Perry/St. John) that the Commission hereby commends the Public Works Department on its

Recent Accreditation by the American Public Works Association.

Information Items:

1. Undergrounding Subcommittee Report on Potential Costs to the City under Proposed Rule 20B Policies: Commissioner St. John presented a table of property owner costs which may need to be (temporarily) underwritten by the City. After discussion, the matter was referred to the Undergrounding Subcommittee and will be included as an Action Item for the next Commission meeting.
2. Presentation of Proposed *Revelatory Landscapes* Exhibition by Tom Leader: After the presentation, Commission discussion included questions about whether the effects of wind may accumulate unwanted trash against the fence, whether it may invite unsafe pedestrian activity along the railroad tracks, and that it may take considerably longer to construct than estimated. Staff reported no further concerns, on the basis that full maintenance responsibilities are assumed by the exhibitor. This item is to be put on the next agenda as an Action Item to show appropriate support for the project, as noted.
3. Presentation of Proposed Mini Grant Traffic Island Project by the Friends and Neighbors of the Sonoma/Hopkins Triangle: After the presentation, it was noted that the proposal has not been submitted for staff review and that the tentative mini grant funding of \$3,300 is far short of the total cost of the project. Staff reported that there are a number of issues to be resolved at the staff level and invited the group to make an appointment for staff review at the Engineering office.
4. Staff Report on Council Request regarding Expenditures from Sewer Fund: An Action Item will be placed on the next agenda for "Determination of Course of Action." Commissioners shall individually consider the specifics of such a proposal before the meeting.
5. Status of Discussions on Formation of a New Environmental Services Department: Staff presented a brief summary of activities of a staff Task Force which is evaluating various levels and options for establishing a new department. Most options would include the transfer of sizeable elements from the existing Public Works Department.
6. Public Works Impacts of New Telecommunications Ordinance: Staff reported that the first reading of a new Telecommunications Ordinance has been held by the City Council, and plans are presently being made to determine resource requirements for the resulting work impacts. Presently, a rough revenue estimate of \$245,000 is projected for the first year. Staff proposals include a combination of permanent and contracted personnel to process, enforce and inspect these installations. It is currently being determined which functions would be performed in the City Manager's Office, Information Systems, and/or Public Works. The Commission would like the Public Works staff recommendation to come back as an Action Item on the next agenda.
7. Preliminary Budget Proposals for Expanded Building/Facilities Maintenance Program: Staff will provide a report to the Commission for its next meeting with its budget recommendations, and the Commission will consider an Action Item to forward their recommendation to the City Council.
8. Status Report from Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Restructuring of Commission Subcommittees: The Ad Hoc Subcommittee is continuing its evaluation and will report at future meetings.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Discussion of Possible Actions regarding a Program for Corrections to Private Sewer Laterals and Illegal Connections: Commissioner Perry stated a three-stage program has been envisioned: first, an information campaign; second, a voluntary program for property owners to disconnect inlets and replace deteriorated pipes; third, mandatory measures, such as required inspections upon sale of property. The Subcommittee is working with a citizen (Paul Feinstein) who has volunteered to prepare

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a draft of an informational pamphlet.

2. Status of Possible Further Actions regarding the Activities of the Undergrounding Task Force and Subcommittee: No report at this time.
3. Status of Discussions with Transportation Commissioners regarding Bicycles and Other Proposed Priorities regarding the Street Paving and the Traffic Capital Improvement Programs: Staff attended the last Transportation Commission meeting and proposed a separate program for bicycle projects in lieu of continuing efforts to modify the Street Repair Policy/Pavement Management System. A Transportation Subcommittee will schedule a meeting to pursue this concept.

Items for Future Agenda:

1. Procedure for Making Earlier Budget Recommendations to the Council: The Commission will begin to make action recommendations to the Council at its next meeting, with the intention to submit all budget recommendations by April 2001.
2. Staff Report on Proposed Alterations to I-80 Interchanges at Ashby Avenue and Gilman Street: The Commission will receive information reports at upcoming meetings.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.