



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes

Thursday, March 7, 2002, 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

Please refrain from wearing scented products to public meetings.

Roll Call: 7:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Campbell

Comments from the Public: None.

Announcements: Statements of Economic Interest are due April 2, 2002.

Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2002

The minutes were approved as submitted (MSC Broderick/St. John, Alward abstaining).

Presentation: Median improvements to Sonoma/Hopkins intersection

David Snippen presented a drawing and described the aspects of the proposed project. He indicated that there is funding of \$21,750 in the City budget plus a Parks mini-grant of \$3,000. Since a condition of the mini-grant is to obtain the Commission's approval, this will be brought back as an action item at the April 2002 meeting. Engineering staff's comments involved the accessibility of the path, both the ramp requirements and the materials. Traffic Engineering comments will be provided separately, in connection with submittal to the Transportation Commission. Staff also had some procedural questions regarding permits, funding and liability, especially if the community intends the work to be done by

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

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private contractors and volunteers.

Action Items:

- 1. Consideration of change in regular meeting time of the Commission:** The secretary reported that the third Wednesday of the month is all that is available at the North Berkeley Senior Center. Whereas this presents a conflict for certain commissioners, it was decided to leave the regular meeting time unchanged (MSC Broderick/St. John).

Information Items:

- 1. Performance measures for street paving and maintenance activities:** The distinction was discussed between budget measures and actual performance measures. It is recognized that the level of many activities is based simply on the amount of funding available. When activities exceed that level, they may be charged to other fund sources and the tracking of those functions is lost. “Work measurement” may be a more accurate terminology, and may consist, for example, of dollars, or amounts of material/labor per unit activity (such as an “average” pothole of a certain size and character). In any event, “100% measures” are not meaningful because they can always be considered to be fulfilled, or mostly fulfilled.

Sherman Jackson indicated that “work measurement” data can be made available for certain maintenance activities, although it is presently probably not in the most useable format. His staff has recently started to collect such data after a lapse of several years. It was decided to review this data at the next meeting of the Commission.

- 2. State of utility trenches throughout the City:** The Manager of Engineering gave a brief report on the deteriorating condition of utility trenches throughout the City, focusing primarily on those by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). The time lag before permanent paving of EBMUD’s trenches has increased to 80 days, whereas their franchise calls for a maximum of 30 days. A meeting was recently held with senior staff of EBMUD, and a letter is being prepared to a member of their Board of Directors.
- 3. Development of Commission/subcommittee work plans:** There was no discussion on this topic.
- 4. Midyear financial report and budget outlook:** It was noted that shortfalls in General Fund revenues are predicted in FY 2002 that may require freezes not only in that fund but possibly other funds. Also, the Manager of Engineering noted that the City recently received information on forecasts for the “new” Measure B. He pointed out that there are now 4 “pots of money” other than Streets and Roads, the most notable new one being for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. An internal process has been started for all departments to compete for all Measure B funds, and internal distributions will not be based on historical allocations, such as for the Public

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Works' street paving program. An update report will be provided at the next Commission meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. **Utility:** The Utility companies have reported a 7% reduction in their overall undergrounding cost estimates, which are being incorporated into our City of Berkeley-PWC Applicant Financed Informational Packet. Also PG&E, on behalf of the other utilities, has requested permission to use our Applicant Financed Informational Packet as a model in their development of a statewide informational guide. Lastly, the subcommittee will take up "Rule 20A" master planning at its next meeting.
2. **Right-of-Way:** The subcommittee received a second presentation on the City's sidewalk repair programs, in considerably more depth and detail.
3. **Facilities & Equipment:** The subcommittee has learned that the Council adopted the maintenance recommendation of the Facilities Management Plan but has not yet addressed the capital portion. A review of the expenditures and tracking across the various departments is now in progress.
4. **Ad Hoc: Sewer Program Review:** The Budget Review Commission has distributed a draft copy of their report. The PWC report is still in progress obtaining and reviewing information and cannot determine a date of the draft report at this time.

Items for Future Agenda:

1. Recommendations regarding Sonoma/Hopkins median improvements
2. Update report on "New" Measure B funding
3. Discussion of street maintenance work measurement data

Adjournment: 9:23 p.m.