



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, January 9, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

Roll Call: 7:12 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Piercy

Vacant: Councilmember Shirek's appointee

Comments from the Public: None

Announcements:

Commissioner Campbell announced that (1) "Everybody Walks in Berkeley" occurs the first Wednesday of each month; (2) the law now requires everyone under 18 years of age to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or skateboard, and (3) a Bicycle Film Festival will be held on February 9, 2003 at La Peña Cultural Center.

The Secretary announced that (1) the annual calendar was submitted to the City Clerk indicating that the meetings on January 9 and July 10, 2003 are "regular" and not "special" meetings; and (2) commemorative pocket calendars are being distributed to Commissioners in appreciation of their participation in the 2004-2005 budget process.

Approval of Minutes: December 5, 2002

The last sentence of Subcommittee Report 4 was corrected to read "... areas of the hills, to other areas of the city." The amended minutes were approved (MSC Holland/St. John).

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

To request meeting materials in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, real-time captioning or other accommodation for the meeting, call 981-6406 (voice) or 981-6903 (TDD) as soon as possible. Providing at least five (working) days' notice will help to ensure availability at the meeting.

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Action Items:

Results of communications with the Community Environmental Advisory Commission regarding “Release of Dioxins and Other Materials into San Francisco Bay” Council item: The secretary is to contact the CEAC’s secretary to obtain background and status information on this Council item. It was further noted that the Commission is more interested in expenditures on technological solutions than lawsuits. They would like staff to provide information at the next meeting on (1) “Vortex” treatment techniques at discharge points, (2) policies to reduce drainage collection at the uphill end, and (3) how stormwater fees are currently charged. The Commission would like to consider a series of presentations in this regard over their next several meetings.

Information Items:

1. Council referral regarding curb ramps within crosswalks: The Commission will be asked at its next meeting to take action to respond to Councilmember Spring’s request that all new curb ramps be located completely within crosswalks (if they are present). Staff presented preliminary information which indicated that this essentially implies double ramps on each corner. Staff further indicated that this is already City policy where economically and practically feasible. It was noted that in some cases, sidewalk widths are simply not sufficient to meet the ADA geometric standards. In other cases, the cost can be prohibitive to relocate poles, culverts or to reconfigure the corners by adding bulbs or other features. A full staff report, and a draft Commission statement, will be submitted for the next meeting.

2. Further suggestions for budget improvements for 2004-2005: The Commissioners were reminded that Rene Cardinaux is still soliciting budget suggestions and recommendations for approximately another two weeks. Commissioners are encouraged to contact him directly.

3. Consideration of new Council Report format and procedures: It was noted that the new Council Rules Committee does not pertain to items from Boards and Commissions. Nevertheless, the Commission would like to reconsider the report prepared by the Secretary for its last meeting and asked the Secretary to finalize it and present it as an Action Item at the February 2003 meeting. Commissioner Holland suggested that two issues be added: (1) that items be received by the Council in a timely manner (three weeks maximum) and (2) the importance of fulfilling the Commission’s mission to advise the Council appropriately.

4. Assessment of subcommittee organization and activities: A meeting will be held among the subcommittee chairs to develop a recommendation for the February 2003 Commission meeting.

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Subcommittee Reports:

Right-of-Way: The subcommittee will receive information on the proposal for new portable traffic circles at its next meeting.

Ad Hoc: Storm Drainage and Street Sweeping: A meeting will be held to consider making recommendations affecting the street sweeping program as an Action Item at the next Commission meeting.

Adjournment: 9:07 p.m.