



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.**  
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:04 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Piercy

Vacant: Councilmember Shirek's appointment

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

William Bryant, 1209 Hopkins Street, observed that sidewalk repair was performed recently on Hopkins, Curtis, and Cornell Streets but wondered why only portions were done and why the entire sidewalk was not replaced.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A more educational version of the Public Works Department's budget presentation will be available soon, and staff recommends that the Commission receive it.

Commissioners' attention was drawn to the debut of "streaming videos" of the Council meetings on the website and the ease of finding portions of interest during the meeting.

A farewell dinner is scheduled for Commissioner Alward on March 12, 2003, and RSVP's should be made to Chair St. John.

A public demonstration of the "Segway" vehicles will be held on March 14, 2003, and the

**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.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

March 6, 2003

Commissioners are invited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 6, 2003

The minutes were corrected as follows: Action Item 3 (page two) should be changed to read, "...the Ad Hoc Subcommittee does not yet have a report." The amended minutes were approved (MSC Campbell/Broderick, with Holland abstaining).

**STAFF PRESENTATION: Storm Water System Series, Part 2**

Staff described the method of how storm water fees are calculated based on water usage. The average remains at about \$50 per parcel that was previously the flat rate. Staff distributed a spreadsheet to show the performance of the storm water fund over several years. Initially, \$1,500,000 per year was to be devoted to capital improvements and it has steadily decreased since then. However, since it was anticipated that a fee increase would be placed on the ballot last year, engineering has been ramped up for an expected expanded program, which has not materialized. The discussion of downstream filtering systems is held over to the next meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. PWC input to City Council for FY2004 & FY2005 Biennial Budget:**

The draft recommendations were discussed. Of the areas to maintain funding, Item 1, regarding GIS, was adopted as written. Next, Item 6 on general infrastructure was selected, incorporating Item 2 regarding the storm system into it. Item 5 was selected as the third recommendation, re-written as follows: "Funds needed to correct the seismic safety deficiencies at the Corporation Year, primarily the unreinforced masonry of the "Ratcliff building" and to pursue energy conservation measures such as solar panels." The three items recommended for minimal impact, if funding were reduced, were adopted as written. The final wording was unanimously approved (MSC Shumer/Alward).

**2. Communication vehicle(s) for Public Works Department Projects Currently**

**Underway:** Information currently available on the City's website was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that a better "lead" and search capability would be desirable and is expected in the near future. The Commission took no action on this matter.

**3. Gateway Arch Study:** After some discussion, the Commission expressed reservations about whether this proposal would be funded in the current economic environment.

Commissioner Perry was designated as lead to follow this proposal.

**4. Mayor's Advisory Task Force on Permitting and Development:** After discussion, it was decided that the Commission would send a letter to the Mayor in accordance with the last paragraph of the announcement, after hearing the Task Force's recommendations for Commission action, in about four months.

March 6, 2003

**5. Recommendation on Subcommittee Assignments; Revisit Ad Hoc Subcommittees & Liaison Assignments; Revisit title of "Subcommittee" vs. "Committee:"**

Commissioners agreed on the recommended subcommittee assignments as submitted. The following changes were noted for liaison assignments: (1) There is no longer a Telecommunications Task Force, (2) Dave Campbell will become the Transportation Commission liaison, and Linda Perry will become the liaison to the Commission on Disability.

**6. Discussion and possible action on Commission Retreat, 2003 Work Plan & Commissioner Binder:** This is carried over for action at the next Commission meeting.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Conduct at Commission Meetings:** This topic was generally discussed, and the Commission will anticipate discussion at the upcoming Commissioner training session.

**2. Naming Policy:** The Chair will make contact with the Parks and Recreation Commission to express that the Commission desire to stay involved with this issue and to ensure that the recommendations made last time are properly conveyed.

**3. Staff Report on Sewer Study:** The staff (City Manager) report was distributed at the meeting, and the item was confirmed to be on the Council's March 25, 2003 agenda.

**4. Walking Tour(s) of Curb Ramps with Ted Zupan:** Commissioners selected the following dates in priority order: (1) Monday, March 24 at 2 p.m., (2) Monday, March 31 at 3 p.m., or (3) Monday, March 31 at 10 a.m.

**5. Status of Past Commission Recommendations to the Council:** The attached report was so noted.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

**Ad Hoc: Storm Drainage and Street Sweeping:** The Status on Residential Street Sweeping Program (RSSP) recommendations will be held over to the next meeting.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

1. Storm Water System Series
2. Recommendation on Residential Street Sweeping Program (RSSP)
3. Recommendation on City of Berkeley Plan for future Rule 20A Funds for Undergrounding
4. PW Budget flow charts

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:40 p.m.