



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**Thursday, February 5, 2004**

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:02 p.m.

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

Vacant: Councilmembers Breland's and Shirek's appointments

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Claire Risley, representing "BFBC" spoke in support of curb cuts around San Pablo Park, apparently referring to bicycle passages through islands or diverters, which were being discussed recently by the Bicycle Subcommittee of the Transportation Commission. Staff responded that such requests are probably originating in the Office of Transportation and have not yet been received in Public Works.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The "Stormwater Tour" hosted by staff will be held on March 4, 2004, starting at 1:00 p.m. and will last approximately 4 hours. The meeting place will be the Corporation Yard, and transportation will be provided by van.

Commissioner Shumer reported on the activities of the "Task Force" on the proposed private development of a hotel by the University of California. The Task Force is an offshoot of a Planning Commission Subcommittee. It consists of about 25 members and meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. It is in the process of formulating questions to pose to U.C. by April 2004. There is no defined project yet.

**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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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 8, 2004

The first sentence of under Staff Presentation is changed to read: “The Secretary reported that, upon collecting data, it was discovered that the original concept of examining planned versus actual expenditures in the same year is complicated by the size of “carry-over” funds from the previous year.” The amended minutes were approved (MSC Perry/Piercy).

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Election of Officers:** Commissioner St. John was nominated for Chair and Commissioner Shumer for Vice Chair (Holland/Perry), both for second terms. These Commissioners were unanimously elected (MSC Piercy/Broderick).

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 1. UC proposal for Underhill Area Streetscape Design Manual:** The Commission requested that a letter be prepared addressed to the Planning Director for action next time requesting whether there are written procedures or standards regulating how external requests are routed and how various authorities and jurisdictions are determined for the concerned subject matters. It was pointed out that this would appear to be required under the approved practices of the APWA accreditation program.
- 2. Creek Ordinance Update:** A Council Workshop, or “working meeting,” is scheduled for March 16, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. An Action Item will be prepared for the next Commission meeting to submit a statement to the Council on who should be invited to the Workshop.
- 3. Discussion of suggestions to reconsider Commission priorities based on the current City budget crisis:** A discussion took place about replacing the current standing subcommittees with “Ad Hoc” subcommittees, which would be created at the time that specific topics are defined. An Action Item will be prepared for the next meeting to this effect.
- 4. Corporation Yard Community Meeting of 1-14-04:** Public Works Director Cardinaux presented a copy of the final consultant report on hazardous materials and air quality. He described the tenure of the recent meeting as “mixed,” with a vocal group who historically have pressed for the City to move the Corporation Yard, but with a balance of those seeing the City as a “good neighbor.”
- 5. UC Impact Study: Public Works consultant study on rate extensions for sanitary sewer service and stormwater fees:** Brown & Caldwell, consulting engineers, has submitted its final draft report for staff review/approval. Based on detailed data on 162 EBMUD water accounts for U.C., a discharge factor of 0.9 was calculated (this compares to a single family factor of 0.82). This results in an annual “fair share” amount for a public agency of about \$1.6

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million for Operations and Maintenance and a total of \$1,976,000 including replacement costs (as a result of the “San Marcos decision,” in most cases public agencies are not required to pay capital costs). This total compares to the negotiated amount of slightly less than \$500,000 that U.C. pays now. As far as sewer connection fees, U.C.’s annual share would be \$1,211,036 based on a 3% growth rate (stated in the Long Range Development Plan). Regarding stormwater fees, an estimate of its “fair share” is \$116,000 per year, based on an impervious factor of 0.6 (main campus); U.C. currently does not pay a stormwater fee. Finally, commissioners indicated an interest in knowing who the U.C. negotiators would be for the next round.

**6. Discussion of insights from February 1, 2004 APWA Re-accreditation Visit:** The Department passed its re-accreditation with a 94% rate of “Full Compliance,” and with only 15 practices rated as “Substantially Compliant.” Although not necessary, it is possible to submit further documentation within 30 days to bring up any of those “substantial” ratings. Berkeley is only the second agency in the nation to be re-accredited, and it was the first to be originally accredited in the state of California. In addition to the welcome reception attended by Commissioners and others, the Mayor and the City Manager attended a dinner the next night with the evaluation team. Commissioners suggested that some sort of emblem or endorsement could be placed on business cards or other department materials.

**7. Clarification of Litter Problem to Solid Waste Commission:** An agenda item will be transmitted to the Solid Waste Commission with a better definition of the problem for their next meeting.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no subcommittee reports pending the outcome of the discussions regarding restructuring ‘Ad Hoc’ and/or standing subcommittees.

### ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Public Works Commissioner Binder (Broderick & Perry - March)
2. Recommendation of Street Cleaning Program (Ad Hoc Subcommittee)
3. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds  
(Utilities Subcommittee – currently on hold)
4. Standardization of City Street Lights (Right-of-Way Subcommittee)
5. Public Works Commission Work Plan
6. Foothill Bridge Proposal from UC

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:47 p.m.