



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Thursday, March 4, 2004

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Vacant: Councilmember Shirek's appointment

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Three residents in the area of the proposed Foothill Bridge spoke against the project. First, Mr. Jim Sharp questioned the structural integrity of the existing structure. Then Ms. Daniella Thompson questioned the need for the bridge and mentioned that the Landmark Preservation Commission unanimously voted against its construction. Also, she was concerned about the bridge obstructing views and emergency access to LBL during an earthquake. Lastly, Mr. Hugo Tarazonah asked why the bridge could not be built near the intersection to reduce view concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Commission welcomed its new member, Commissioner Prevo, appointed by Councilmember Breland.

The Commission thanked Danny Akagi for the "Stormwater Tour" on March 4, 2004.

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: February 5, 2004

The minutes were approved without amendment (MSC Piercy/Perry).

PRESENTATION: Proposed Foothill Bridge (U.C. Staff)

Mr. David Mandel, Associate Planner, UC Berkeley, presented the proposed UC Foothill Bridge Project. Mr. Mandel started the presentation by responding to earlier questions regarding the importance of the project. He mentioned that the project is needed to provide fair access by improving disabled access from the hostel to the “commons” including dining facilities and other amenities at UC. The current distance for a disabled person from the hostel to the dining area is about 0.5 mile or 2,640 feet. The proposed project will reduce the distance to about 600 feet. He mentioned that the design has been revised to a great extent to accommodate neighborhood concerns to the point that it so simple and probably possesses less aesthetic value. He mentioned that staff paid particular attention to seismic requirements and that the existing columns are structurally safe and sound.

The Commission recalled a recent study regarding connection of fault lines and its projected greater seismic effect. Mr. Mandel said that he would discuss with his design team whether UC engineers considered this in their design. The Commission also asked about how many dorm rooms UC has, in particular, the number disabled access rooms in the 750 bed project, and how many UC students have disabilities. They also wanted to know the total project cost. In response to a question about view blockage, Mr. Mandel said that he does not believe that any residents will lose their view. He mentioned that there has been three pedestrian accidents in the last five years in the vicinity. Finally, it was noted that UC originally built the columns on the assumption that the City would issue them a permit to build the bridge. Mr. Mandel did note that LBL approved the project and that they met the clearance height requirement for LBL.

Commission Chair St. John said that the Commission needs a report from the City Engineer on this project and would not make a recommendation until one was received from staff. Mr. Mandel said that they will send new schematics in two weeks. The Commission mentioned that they will re-visit issue.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Proposed Subcommittee Structural Changes:** In light of the current City budget crisis, the Commission unanimously approved discontinuing its two standing subcommittees in favor of “Ad Hoc” subcommittees. (MSC Holland/Perry).
2. **Public Works Commissioner Binder:** Commissioners Broderick and Perry presented a sample of the proposed Commissioner’s binder. Commissioners discussed the matter and decided to re-visit in June.
3. **Utilities Subcommittee Items:** Commissioner Shumer presented a draft version the

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Upper Sewer Laterals and Non-Conforming Storm Drain System. She discussed the issue of damaged lateral sewer lines and non-conforming drain system. She mentioned that property owners should show evidence of satisfactory lateral sewer line at time of sale, before issuance of final inspection when development is over 10% of value of the property. It would also require property owners to certify via inspection that their lateral is in good condition prior to connection into a rehabilitated City sewer line. The Commission discussed changing the duration of the time for acceptance of approved work from ten years to twenty years. The Commission decided to revisit this item.

4. **Right of Way Subcommittee Items:** The Commission postponed these items due to insufficient time.
5. **Request for Written Planning Procedures or Standards for Requests Made to the City by External Organizations:** The Commission postponed this item due to insufficient time.
6. **Letter to City Council regarding Creek ordinance:** The Commission unanimously passed the recommendation to provide adequate notice to all potentially affected owners when matters relating to interpretation or possible change to the City's Creek Ordinance. (M/S/C) – Piercy/Dacey)

INFORMATION ITEMS: The commission postponed all information Items as there was insufficient time to address.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no subcommittee reports based on the outcome of the discussions regarding restructuring 'Ad Hoc' and/or standing subcommittees.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Right of Way Subcommittee items (Commissioner Holland)
2. Request for written planning Procedures or standards for requests to the City by External Organizations
3. Recommendation of Street Cleaning Program
4. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds
5. Standardization of City Street Lights
6. Public Works Commission Work Plan
7. Foothill Bridge Proposal from UC
8. Brown & Caldwell study on extensions for sanitary sewer service and stormwater fees

ADJOURNMENT: 9:50 p.m.