



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
Minutes**

**Thursday, February 3, 2005**

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Dacey, Edwards, Holland, Jackson, Ongerth, Prevo, Shumer, St. John

Absent: Commissioner Alward (Leave of Absence)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Newly appointed Commissioner Alvin Jackson was introduced and welcomed. The appointment of Commissioner Keith Alward was also announced, but he was not present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 6, 2005

Under Call to Order, Commissioner Perry's name will be deleted. In Action Item 5, regarding Commissioner St. John's role with Organizing Committees for Undergrounding Districts, "liaison" will be changed to "contact." The minutes were approved as amended (MSC Holland/Dacey with a vote of 6-0-1, Ongerth abstaining, Edwards arriving late).

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Sanitary Sewer System Study – Proposed Response to Staff Report of December 14, 2004:** The last two sentences under "Current Situation and Its Effects" were changed to:

Our major concern is that potentially inappropriate levels of overhead continue to be applied. The review and revision of levels of overhead was one of the key recommendations in our March 2003 report.

**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.

The amended report was adopted (MSC Shumer/Dacey by a vote of 8-0-0).

**2. Update on Street Litter Impacts on Storm Water System:** Director Rene Cardinaux explained his budget proposal to consolidate all street cleaning functions into the Solid Waste Division, which would be renamed as the “Environmental Services Division.” The Commission discussed whether this would be an opportune time to re-activate the idea of expanding the street sweeping program and decided it was not, due to the current budget crisis. Regarding “flyers” which add substantially to the litter problem, Commissioners decided to consider recommending moving toward legislation to restrict the distribution and placement of bulk mail and hand delivered flyers, rather than banning flyers themselves. The Director suggested that the Commission might consider requesting a presentation at one of its meetings by the “HHS Task Force” on this issue. The report will be rewritten by the Subcommittee (Commissioners Dacey and St. John). This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting (MSC Holland/Jackson with a vote of 8-0-0).

**3. New Formula for MTC Distribution for Local Streets and Roads:** Secretary Egeberg distributed written information and explained the regional proposal, soon to be adopted, to modify the criteria for distribution of federal funds. Previously the distribution was measured based on population alone. A new factor will be added (with a weight of 33%) to account for the lane mileage in each jurisdiction. This is favorable to Alameda County and will increase its share from 11% to 17%. However, “performance factors” are also added (with a weight of 33%) to reward jurisdictions which have good maintenance programs. This factor, unfortunately, would significantly penalize Berkeley, compared to other Alameda County jurisdictions, if budget proposals go forward in Berkeley that would seriously cut the Measure B funds going to street pavement. The Commission authorized the Secretary and the Chair to prepare and submit a brief Council Report, to serve as an addendum to its Council Report on Measure B funding, to advise Council of this additional significant downside of cutting street pavement funding (MSC Holland/Prevo with a vote of 8-0-0).

**4. Election of Officers:** Commissioner Holland nominated Commissioner Sara Shumer to be Chair and Commissioner Patricia Dacey to be Vice Chair. No other nominations were submitted. The election was confirmed unanimously (MSC Holland/Prevo with a vote of 8-0-0).

## INFORMATION ITEMS

**1. Budget Crisis and Departmental Reorganization Initiatives:** Director Cardinaux provided copies of the Public Works Department’s 2006/2007 budget submittal, but emphasized that it has not been approved by the City Manager, nor of course, by the Council. Major organizational changes are the inclusion of the Office of Transportation, the transfer of street cleaning activities to Solid Waste (“Environmental Services”), and a Deputy Director (or equivalent) overseeing all operations and maintenance at the Corporation Yard. There was considerable discussion on the goal of increasing recycling from 50% to 75% by 2010, pointing out that there is a long way to go. The biggest gap may be with multi-unit buildings. Green waste and composting was also of considerable interest.

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**2. Status of Construction Impacts Joint Ad Hoc Subcommittee with the Transportation**

**Commission:** Commissioner Holland reported that it has been determined that the topic is a big one and will take time.

**3. Council Tour of Proposed Foothill Bridge Site:** Indications have been received that the announced date of February 17, 2005 for the Council Special Meeting has been postponed. It was also noted that the Commission has already gone on record as requesting that it be a part of the agenda.

**Administrative Notes:**

1. From now on, the Commission minutes will include a record of the vote count with each motion passed at the meeting.
2. A new section for “Chair Report” and for “Staff Report” will be added at the beginning of each Commission meeting agenda.
3. A section for “Liaison Reports” will be added at the end of each Commission meeting agenda under "Future Agenda Items."
4. Regarding the Commission roster, the Secretary will check with the City Clerk’s office regarding policy of showing the original appointing Councilmember versus the current incumbent (when they are different).

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

1. Status of Construction Impacts Joint Ad-Hoc Subcommittee with the Transportation Commission (Commissioners Holland, Dacey and Prevo) February
2. Status of Public Works Capital Streets Budget (Director Rene Cardinaux)
3. Staff Presentations
  - a. Sanitary Sewer System
  - b. Clean Storm Water System
  - c. Pavement Management System (PMS) and Five Year Plan
  - d. Environmental Issues
4. Litter Issue (Commissioners Dacey & St. John)
5. Street Lighting Standards (including maintenance)
6. Recommendation of Street Cleaning Program
7. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:54 p.m.