



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, September 7, 2006
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alward, Francis, Holland, Jackson, Nelson, Prevo, Shumer, St. John, Wolfe

Absent: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thomas Francis has been newly appointed to the Commission by Councilmember Anderson. He introduced himself and described his relevant background.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Margy Wilkinson spoke on flooding in south Berkeley, noting that cars have been submerged year after year recently on Ellis Street. She is concerned that construction of a new wall at Malcolm X School will exacerbate the problem.

John Ringewald, representing Local 790, spoke against a proposal to contract out storm drain maintenance. He handed out a packet that included a petition of union members objecting to the proposal.

The Commission will place both these topics for discussion on its next meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The revised minutes of the June 1, 2006 Regular Meeting were edited, under Announcements, to

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.

change “tonight’s presentation” to “the storm drain consultant report and update.” The minutes were adopted (MSC Wolfe/Jackson, with a vote of 8-0-1, Prevo abstaining).

The minutes of the July 6, 2006 Regular Meeting, with the correction of typos in the date of the prior meeting to June 1, 2006, and in the heading “Subcommittee, Liaison and Representative Reports (As time permits),” were adopted (MSC Nelson/ St. John, with a vote of 9-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT: None.

STAFF REPORT:

1. Status of Private Sewer Lateral Program Implementation: Preparations have been made for implementation on schedule of this program on October 1, 2006. Outreach has been done with the realtor community and a meeting is scheduled soon with the contractor community.

2. Status of Short-term Downtown BART Redesign: No proposals have been announced for a more economical alternative.

3. Location of Watershed Coordinator Position: Funding for the half-time position was included in the Mayor’s 2007 budget amendment, but the decision has not yet been made as to where the function will be located.

4. Status of Street Sweeping Council Report: The PWC’s recommendation is scheduled on the September 19, 2006 Council agenda, but the City Manager’s position has not yet been released.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Storm Water Management:

a. Outreach Letter: The subcommittee’s draft was edited to remove the yellow highlighting and to change the last word in the third-to-last paragraph to “rises.” The Secretary is to prepare a cover memorandum to submit it to the City Manager for consideration. The motion passed (MSC Alward/Shumer, with a vote of 8-0-1, Prevo abstaining).

b. Council Directive of December 19, 2000: The item in the agenda packet was noted.

c. Staff Response on Concrete Permits in Parking Strips: A permit is required to place concrete in parking strips, but permits are not always obtained. There are no current requirements for pervious paving materials.

d. Codes, Regulations and Standards on Storm Water Dumping and Containment, including Current Revisions: This item is held over to the next meeting.

e. BMP Concepts from Creeks Task Force: The material in the packet was received and noted. Commissioner St. John pointed out that review of the concepts is still needed

from Public Works staff.

f. PWC Recommendation on Best Practices for Parking Strips and Implementation: Recommendations on pursuing grant-funded tree planting programs shall be added to the cover letter under Item 1a above.

g. Subcommittee Formation and Charge: No changes will be made at this time.

2. Report on December 2005 Flood Damage, Recovery and Claims: This item is held over to the next meeting.

3. Creeks Task Force Report and Possible Action: The report is not ready but shall be placed as an Action Item for the next meeting. The draft item in the agenda packet, indicating the Commission's preference for locating the coordinator position in Public Works, was approved (MSC St. John/Nelson, with a vote of 9-0-0). This is to be sent to the City Council as an Information Item.

4. Private Sewer Lateral Program –Subcommittee Recommendation: Commissioners Jackson, Shumer and St. John will meet and draft a recommendation for the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Work Plan Retreat – Proposed date of Saturday, December 2, 2006: The time of the retreat is set from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and the location will be Commissioner Jackson's residence. The possible presence of a facilitator, staff, or other commissioners was discussed. The topic will be continued as an Information Item on the next meeting agenda.

2. Biodiesel Developments: The material in the packet was received and noted.

3. Appointment of Public Works Director: The announcement was acknowledged.

SUBCOMMITTEE, LIASON AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: There was none.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Pedestrian Plan --October 2006
2. Presentation by Public Works Director --November 2006
3. West Berkeley Redevelopment Projects (Commissioner Prevo) – November 2006
4. Presentation by Gil Dong, Fire Department Emergency Coordinator
5. Staff Presentations on deferred issues
 - a. Environmental Issues
 - b. Street Lighting Standards (including maintenance)
 - c. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds
6. Street Sweeping Requests: Hilgard

ADJOURNMENT: 9:50 p.m.