



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Alward (Leave of Absence)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Ringewald, representing Local 790, indicated that the proposal to contract out storm drain maintenance appears to have been stopped. In answer to a Commissioner's question, he stated that keeping the work in-house would not require overtime by City workers.

Diane Crowley is a member of the Creeks Task Force (CTF) and signed the Minority Report but is speaking as an individual tonight. She indicated that the City Attorney's language regarding rebuilding is not consistent with the CTF's recommendations. In particular, Section 17.08.055 should be amended to remove "involuntary acts" and Section 17.08.058 should be deleted in its entirety.

Tom Kelly is concerned about the effects of impervious surfaces on flooding and would like homeowners to be encouraged to use other materials. He also indicated that the new Creeks Ordinance is "fine tuned" and discouraged any modifications.

Vonnie Gurgin, representing Neighbors on Urban Creeks, feels that culverted creeks provide storm drainage and that the City should finance all storm drainage improvements.

Mischa Lorraine is also a member of the CTF and signed the Minority Report. She is concerned about general drainage and supports the development of an overall Watershed Management Plan.

Phil Price is also a member of the CTF and feels that the Ordinance is only a small part of the

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

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plan and suggested that concepts from Portland, such as lowered (rather than raised) traffic circles, be considered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September 7, 2006 regular meeting were approved (MSC Wolfe/Nelson, with a vote of 8-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT: For the sake of time, all Staff Reports, except Item 2 will be held over to the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

1. December 2005 Flood Damage, Recovery and Claims: Held over.

2. Wall Construction at Malcolm X School: A neighborhood meeting was held last night regarding flooding last winter and the current construction of improvements at Malcolm X School. Staff explained that the real problem causing flooding on the street and other properties is undercapacity of the City's storm drainage system, not the school construction. Staff went on to describe various short-term improvements that the City intends to make this Fall to alleviate the problems.

3. Outsourcing of Storm Drain Maintenance: Held over.

4. Paving in Parking Strips and other Right-of-way Locations: Held over.

5. Storm Water Management Codes, Regulations and Standards: Held over.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Brief Introduction to the Pedestrian Plan: Brett Hondorp of Alta Planning and Design is the City's consultant working on developing the new plan. He described the process of going from the General Plan to a Master Plan and the overall process for the Pedestrian Plan. They will be going to various commissions in the next few months, with the second public workshop in January – February 2007. At that point they will begin prioritizing projects to seek available grant funding. The PWC would like to consider criteria to be used for this at its next meeting.

2. Review of Proposed Creeks Ordinance Revisions: Wendy Cosin made a presentation of the development of the revised Creeks Ordinance and responded to questions posed by the commissioners.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Private Sewer Lateral Program: Commissioner Jackson reviewed the recommendations contained in the packet. The PWC would like to review the results

as indicated after six months into the program. Staff assured the commission that the proper data is being collected and tracked. The policy was adopted as written (MSC Nelson/Shumer, with a vote of 8-0-0).

2. Follow-up on Street Sweeping – viewing of Council video: The Commission viewed the video of the Council discussion regarding the PWC’s street sweeping report at the September 19, 2006 meeting.

3. Creeks Task Force Report and Possible Action: The draft in the packet was reviewed and approved as written (MSC Nelson/Shumer, with a vote of 7-1-0, Wolfe opposed). An amendment, to be the second bullet, to read, “We recognize the need for the information regarding the location of the culvert, but are concerned that the cost of locating the culvert may be a burden onto the property owner.” was adopted on a separate vote (MSC Wolfe/Nelson, with a vote of 6-0-2, Shumer and St. John abstaining).

4. Parking Strip Storm Water Runoff Abatement: Held over.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Budget: Held over.

SUBCOMMITTEE, LIASON AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: The Chair announced that a joint solid waste facility committee may be formed.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Presentation by Public Works Director --November 2006
2. West Berkeley Redevelopment Projects (Commissioner Prevo) – November 2006
3. Work Plan Retreat – December 2006: Both Commissioners Nelson and Wolfe delivered handouts to be included in the next meeting packet.
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: 9:40 p.m.